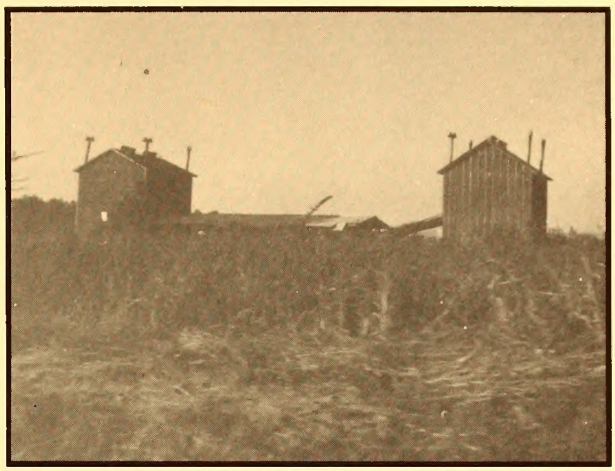
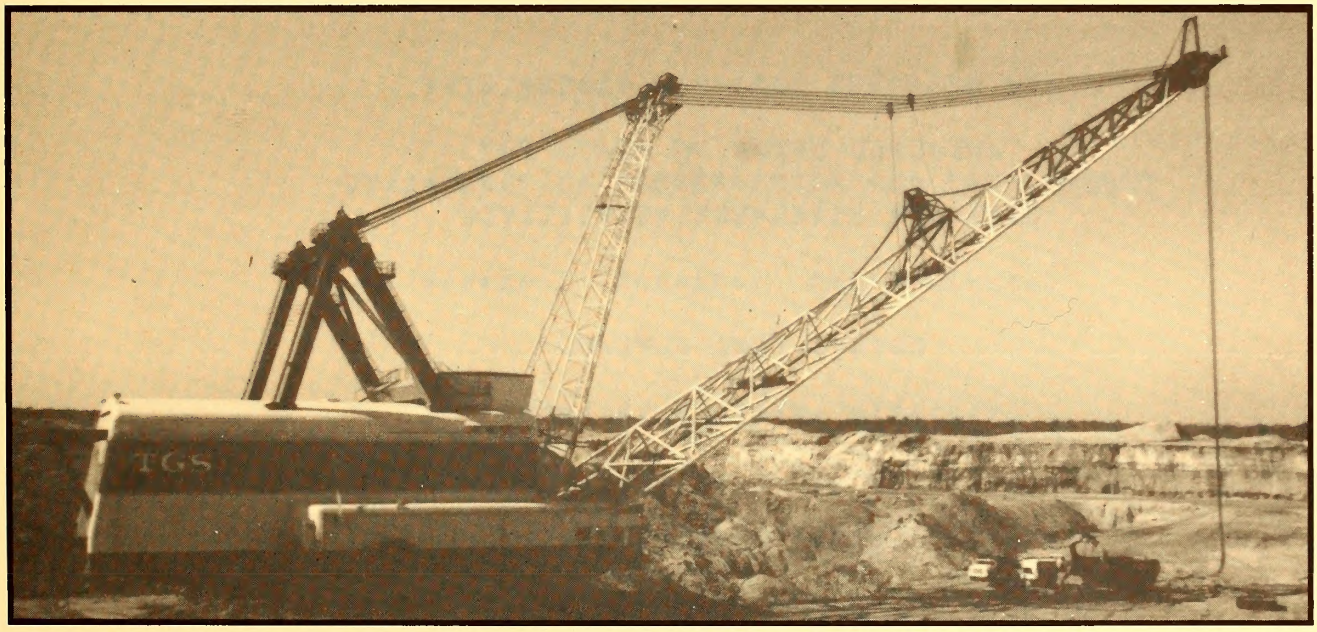
ECONOMIC POTENTIAL STUDY

BEAUFORT COUNTY, N. C.





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INTRODUCTION

PURPOSE AND SCOPE

In 1966, Beaufort County initiated a county-wide, long-range planning program. The Beaufort County Planning Board was established and charged with the responsibility of carrying out the planning program. As stated in the North Carolina General Statutes, it is the Planning Board's duty to "make a careful study of the resources, possibilities, and needs of the county, particularly with respect to the conditions which may be injurious to the public welfare or otherwise injurious, and to make plans for the development of the county."[1] To assist the planning board in fulfilling its function, the County has retained the services of the professional planning staff of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development, Division of Community Planning which works with local planning boards in gathering background information and formulating development plans and tools for implementing the plans.

Planning elements now being undertaken by the county include a land potential study, an economic potential study, a land development plan, and subdivision regulations. The Land Potential Study is a background study, the Land Development Plan is a plan, and the Subdivision Regulations are a tool for implementing the Development Plan. The Economic Potential Study is both a background study and a part of the overall plan for the development of the county.

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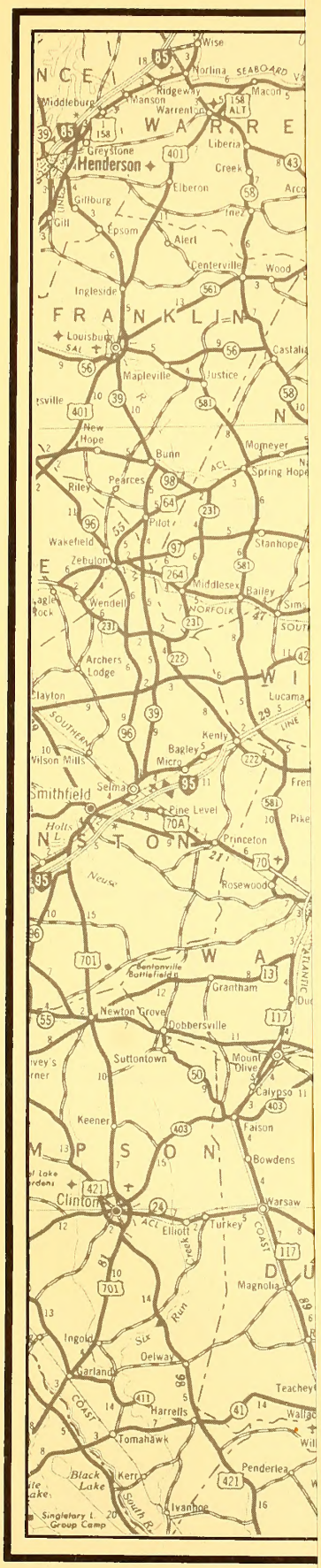
[1]North Carolina General Statutes 153-9, Article 40.

In fulfilling the dual purposes of providing background information for subsequent planning elements and serving as a part of the overall development plan, the Economic Potential Study is necessarily broad in scope. As a source of background information, this study includes an analysis of trends in population change, employment, and major economic activities plus an analysis of resources, both human and physical, which contribute to the county's potential for further economic development. As a part of the county's development plan, the study includes a set of specific economic goals and objectives and a specific action program leading to the attainment of these goals. The action program is set up to utilize available local, state, and federal resources.

REGIONAL SETTING

Beaufort County straddles the Pamlico River in the Coastal Plain of North Carolina. It is bounded on the south by Pamlico County; on the west by Pitt County; on the north by Martin, Washington, and Tyrrell Counties; and on the east by Hyde County and the Pamlico Sound. These counties are all a portion of the eastern region of North Carolina.

The term "region" is commonly used to describe a group of geographically contiguous areas which have certain common or complementary characteristics or which are tied by extensive inter-areal activity or flows. The choice of


Wise
Norlina
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Ridgeway
Macon
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Warrenton
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W A R R E
Greystone
Henderson
Liberty
Creek
Elberon
Arco
Gillburg
Gill
Epsom
Alert
Centerville
Wood
Ingleside
F R A N K L I N
Louisburg
Castalia
Mapleville
Justice
New Hope
Bunn
Momeyer
Spring Hope
Riley
Pearces
Pilot
Wakefield
Zebulon
Stanhope
Middlesex
Bailey
Wendell
NORFOLK
Archers Lodge
Clayton
Lucama
SOUTHERN
Kenly
Wilson Mills
Bagley
Micro
Selma
Smithfield
Fine Level
Princeton
Rosewood
Neuse
Bentonville Battlefield
Grantham
Newton Grove
Dobbersville
Suttontown
Mount Olive
Calypso
Keener
Faison
Bowdens
Clinton
Warsaw
Elliott
Turkey
COAST
Magnolia
Six Run
Ingold
Oelway
Garland
Teachey
Harrells
Tomahawk
Black Lake
Kerr
Penderlea
Ivanhoe
South R.
Singletary L. Group Camp

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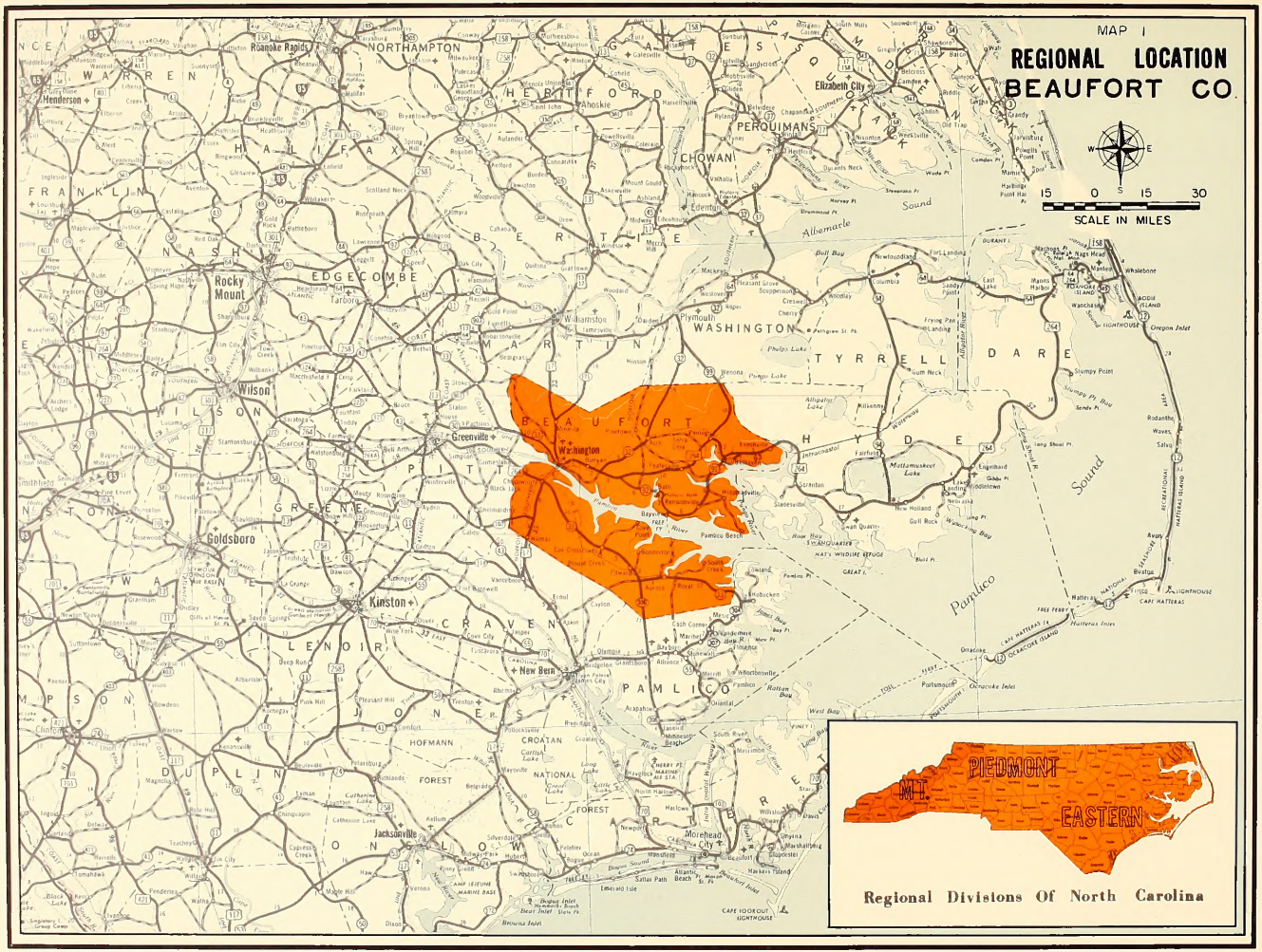
MAP I
REGIONAL LOCATION
BEAUFORT CO.
SCALE IN MILES
15 0 15 30
Washington
Greenville
Rocky Mount
Wilson
Goldsboro
Kinston
New Bern
Jacksonville
Morehead City
Elizabeth City
Edenton
Plymouth
Williamston
Roanoke Rapids
Henderson
Albemarle Sound
Pamlico Sound
PIEDMONT
MT.
EASTERN
Regional Divistons Of North Carolina

component areas depends principally upon the extent to which such areas can be combined in terms of physical, socio-economic, or other criteria.[1] North Carolina can be divided into three fairly distinct regions which fit the definition above. These regions, shown on the Regional Setting Map, are the East, the Piedmont, and the Mountains. Although, historically this has been a political division of the state, it is also an economic division. The major portion of the state's growth has occurred in the Piedmont. As shown in Table 1, in absolute figures and percentagewise, the population growth of the Piedmont is greater than the growth of the East or the Mountains.

TABLE 1. REGIONAL POPULATION GROWTH IN NORTH CAROLINA, 1940-1960

Region	POPULATION				
	1940	1950		1960	
		Number	Percent Change	Number	Percent Change
East	1,236,435	1,401,824	13.4	1,550,818	10.6
Piedmont	1,955,896	2,261,617	15.6	2,611,451	15.5
Mountains	379,292	397,488	4.8	393,886	-0.9

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

[1] Harvey S. Perloff, and other, Regions, Resources and Economic Growth, (Lincoln, 1960), p. 4.

The East, which includes Beaufort County, has developed slowly despite an abundance of natural resources in the region. Poor schools, poor roads, and a lack of investment capital are among the major reasons that the area has not developed more rapidly. In addition, a large segment of the labor force is unskilled and uneducated to the extent that low wages and simple repetitive tasks are prevalent in the manufacturing industry of the region. A decrease in the demand for agricultural labor has helped to create a surplus of unskilled and untrained labor.

Despite its many drawbacks, the East is beginning to show signs of an accelerated rate of growth. Unemployment rates generally are decreasing. In addition, the establishment of industrial education centers and technical institutes throughout the region insures that the majority of the unskilled workers will have an opportunity to qualify for better paying and more stable occupations.

Because of its location and wealth of natural resources, Beaufort County should be a focal point for much of the region's anticipated growth. Exploitation of the rich phosphate deposits in the eastern portions of the county should contribute extensively to the development of the county and the surrounding area.

Part 1

BACKGROUND & TRENDS

INTRODUCTION

In most instances, the course of future developments is determined, or at least influenced, by events and developments which have already occurred. Assuming no major abrupt change, trends which develop over a long period of time may be expected to continue into the future. Therefore, it is obvious that potentials for future economic development cannot be analyzed realistically unless consideration is given past and current happenings. For example, a trend toward larger and fewer farms would certainly have an impact on future farming operations.

For the reason cited above, it is desirable to begin this study with an analysis of past growth and current conditions; including such factors as population, labor force, and principal economic activities. This part is a background for analysis of Beaufort County's potential for economic growth.

CHAPTER 1 - POPULATION

In this chapter, Beaufort County's background is examined in terms of population growth and characteristics. An estimate of anticipated future population is reserved for a later chapter.

GROWTH

The population of Beaufort County increased from 26,404 in 1900 to a peak of 37,134 in 1950. As shown in Chart 1, the population has increased very slowly since 1930 and a decrease of over 1,000 people occurred between 1950 and 1960. Population change in an area is the result of two factors; migration and natural increase.[1] In turn, these two factors are the result of complex economic and sociological conditions.

MIGRATION

For each decade or portion of a decade since 1940, Beaufort County has experienced a net out-migration of people. From 1940 to 1966, out-migration from the county exceeded in-migration by 13,824 persons.

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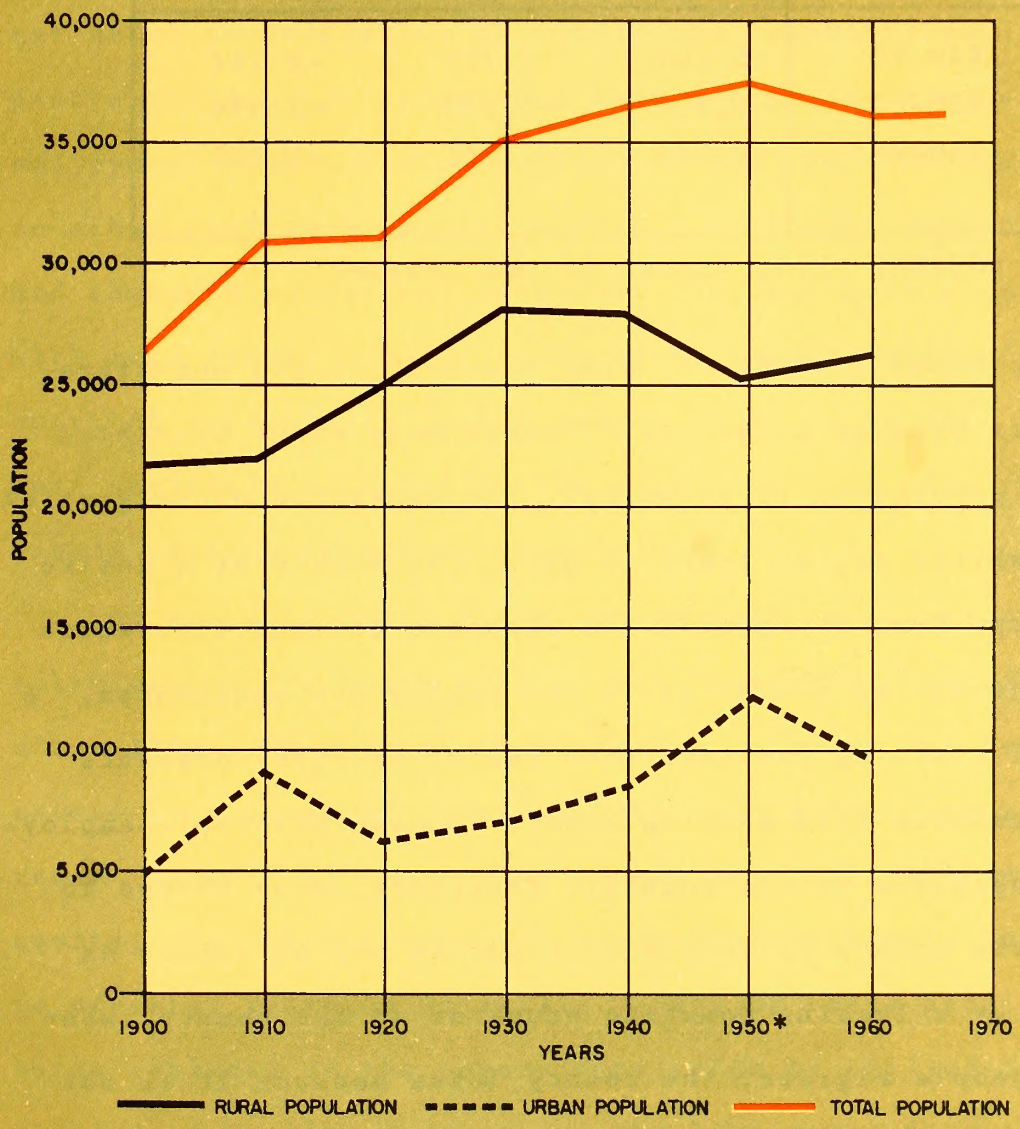
[1]Migration is the movement of people which constitutes a change in residence from one area to another. In-migration is the movement of people into an area and out-migration is the movement of people out of an area. Natural increase is a population increase due to an excess of births over deaths.

Chart 1. Population Change In Beaufort County, 1900-1966



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS
*BELHAVEN WAS CLASSIFIED AS URBAN (OVER 2,500 POPULATION) IN 1910 AND 1950.

TABLE 2. OUT-MIGRATION FROM BEAUFORT COUNTY

Period	Net Migration		
	Total	White	Nonwhite
1940-50	-5,043	-2,996	-2,047
1950-60	-6,816	-3,222	-3,594
1960-66	-1,965	- 166	-1,799

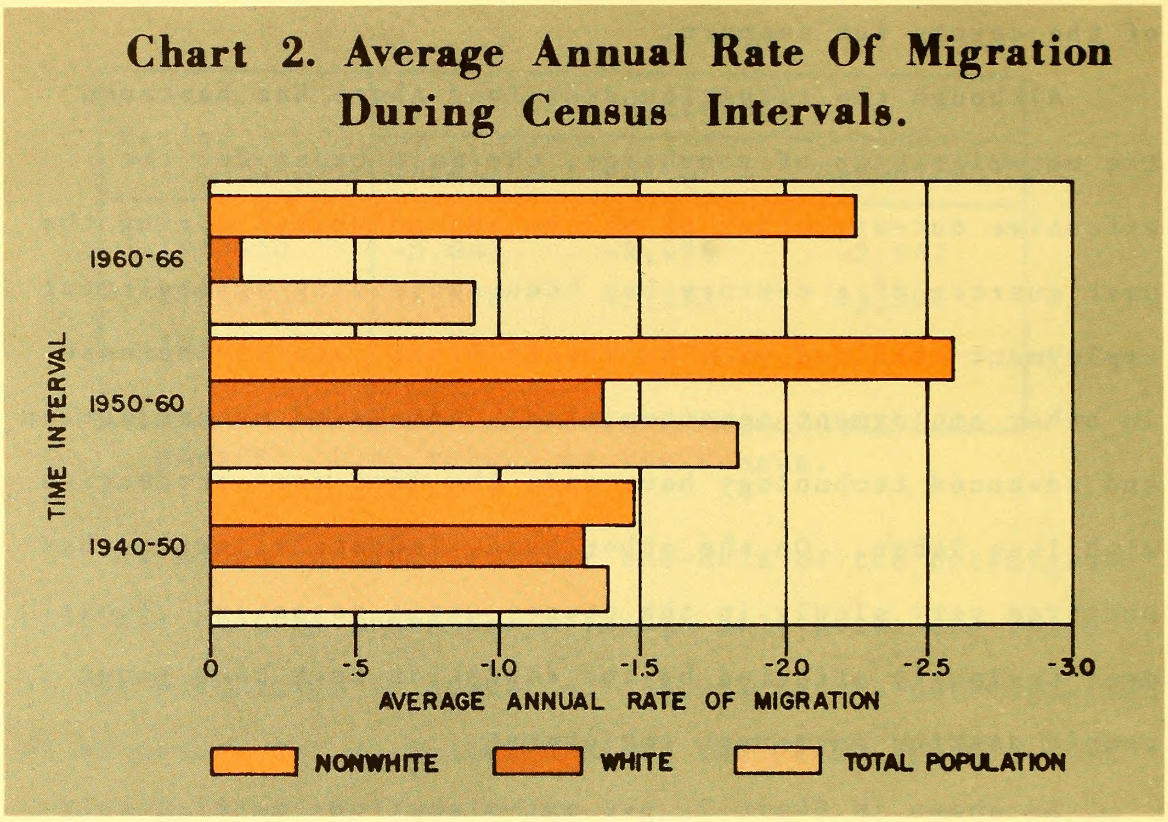
SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

As shown in Table 2, over one-half of the out-migration has been by nonwhites although only about one-third of the population is nonwhite. The excessive out-migration of nonwhites is, at least in part, the result of a desire to escape from the social and economic dilemma with which the majority of nonwhites in the county are confronted. A lack of training combined with racial barriers prevents the nonwhites from gaining access to many desirable employment positions in the county. Therefore, many choose to leave the county in search of a better way of life. As stated by a leading nonwhite educator in the county, when these people migrate, the county loses because it is not the irresponsible, shiftless person who leaves, but the more intelligent, stable, and ambitious person who becomes dissatisfied with his chances for a better way of life in Beaufort County. Those remaining as permanent citizens of the county are less likely to be productive members of

society and more likely to be dependent upon the remainder of the county for support.

Although the situation described above has hastened the out-migration of nonwhites, the main cause for the extensive out-migration of whites and nonwhites during the past quarter of a century has been decreasing agricultural employment combined with an insufficient rate of increase in other employment opportunities. Increased mechanization and advanced technology have made the land more productive with less labor. On the other hand, industrialization has occurred very slowly in the county until recently. Those most seriously affected by the situation have been young people seeking permanent employment.

As shown in Chart 2, net out-migration, particularly out-migration by white people, has decreased significantly since 1960. This shift in migration patterns has been caused by a surge of industrialization in the county in recent years. Although many people are still leaving the county, the out-migrants are predominantly people who have no advanced training or skills. Many of these people are being replaced in the county population by skilled craftsmen and professional personnel who have moved into the county to staff the new industries. This is an encouraging development because it represents a shift toward a more highly trained and skilled population base.



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS

NATURAL INCREASE

The net out-migration of 13,824 people would have caused a much greater population decrease in the county from 1940 to 1966 if it had not been for a high rate of natural increase. The total natural population increase during this period was 13,527 people, over 37 percent of the 1940 population. In Table 3, it is revealed that the average annual rate of natural increase has decreased during each period shown since 1940. However, the county still has a high rate of natural increase. As shown in Table 4, the number of

TABLE 3. NATURAL INCREASE OF BEAUFORT COUNTY POPULATION, 1940-1966

Period	NATURAL INCREASE					
	Total Population		White		Nonwhite	
	Average Natural Increase Per Year	% of Population at Beginning of Period	Average Natural Increase Per Year	% of Population at Beginning of Period	Average Natural Increase Per Year	% of Population at Beginning of Period
1940-50	575	1.58	363	1.60	211	1.53
1950-60	570	1.53	268	1.15	302	2.18
1960-66	348	0.97	151	0.66	197	1.48

SOURCE: N.C. State Board of Health, Raleigh, North Carolina.

TABLE 4. CHILDREN UNDER 5 PER 1,000 FEMALES 15 to 49 YEARS OLD, 1960

Area	Total	Nonwhite
North Carolina	448	525
Beaufort County	509	724

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

children under 5 per 1,000 females 15 to 49 years old for Beaufort County is much higher than the number for North Carolina. For nonwhites, the county figure is 38 percent higher than the state figure.

DISTRIBUTION

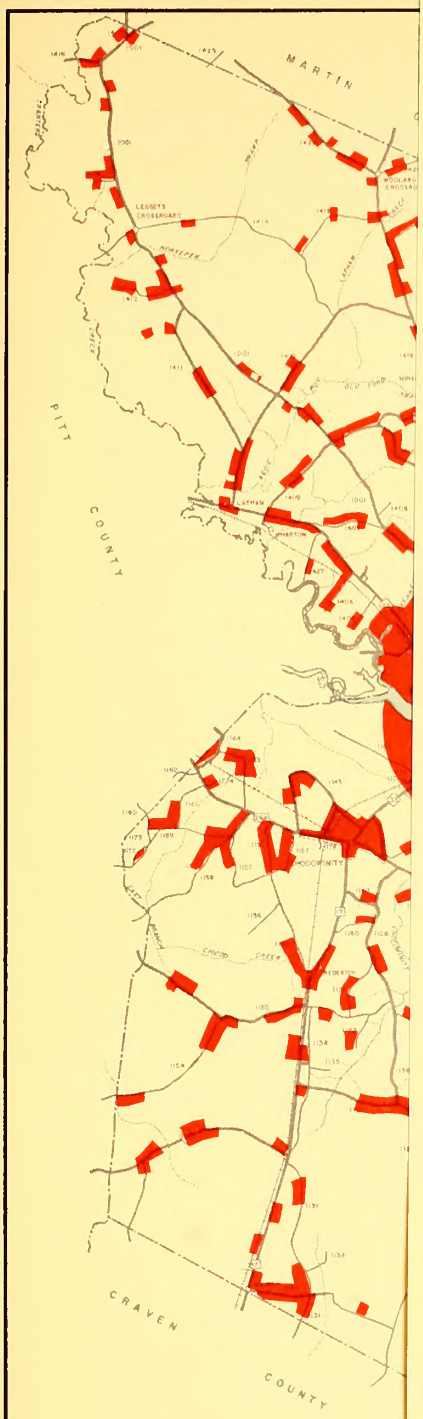
Obviously, with extensive migration and a high rate of natural increase, the geographical distribution of the population may be expected to change. This statement is sub-

stantiated by the data in Table 5. The three townships in the eastern part of the county (Bath, Pantego, and Richland Townships) experienced a population decrease from 1940 to 1950 and from 1950 to 1960. On the other hand, the remaining three townships experienced a population increase during each period. The major population increase in the county has occurred in the vicinity of the City of Washington. This is an indication that the population increase is a result of increased urban-type employment, whereas the population decrease in the more remote areas of the county is a result of decreasing agricultural employment.

TABLE 5. CHANGE IN DISTRIBUTION OF BEAUFORT COUNTY POPULATION, 1940-1960

	POPULATION				
	1940	1950	Percent Change	1960	Percent Change
Beaufort County	36,431	37,134	1.9	36,014	-3.0
Bath Township	4,154	3,733	-10.1	3,323	-11.0
Chocowinity Township	4,559	4,624	1.0	4,628	0.1
Long Acre Township	4,794	5,031	4.9	5,318	5.7
Pantego Township	5,935	5,713	-3.7	5,377	-5.9
Belhaven Town	2,360	2,528	7.1	2,386	-5.6
Richland Township	4,794	4,241	-11.5	3,462	-18.4
Washington Township	12,195	13,792	13.1	13,906	0.8
Washington City	8,569	9,698	13.2	9,939	2.5

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.



MAP 2

RESIDENTIAL SE

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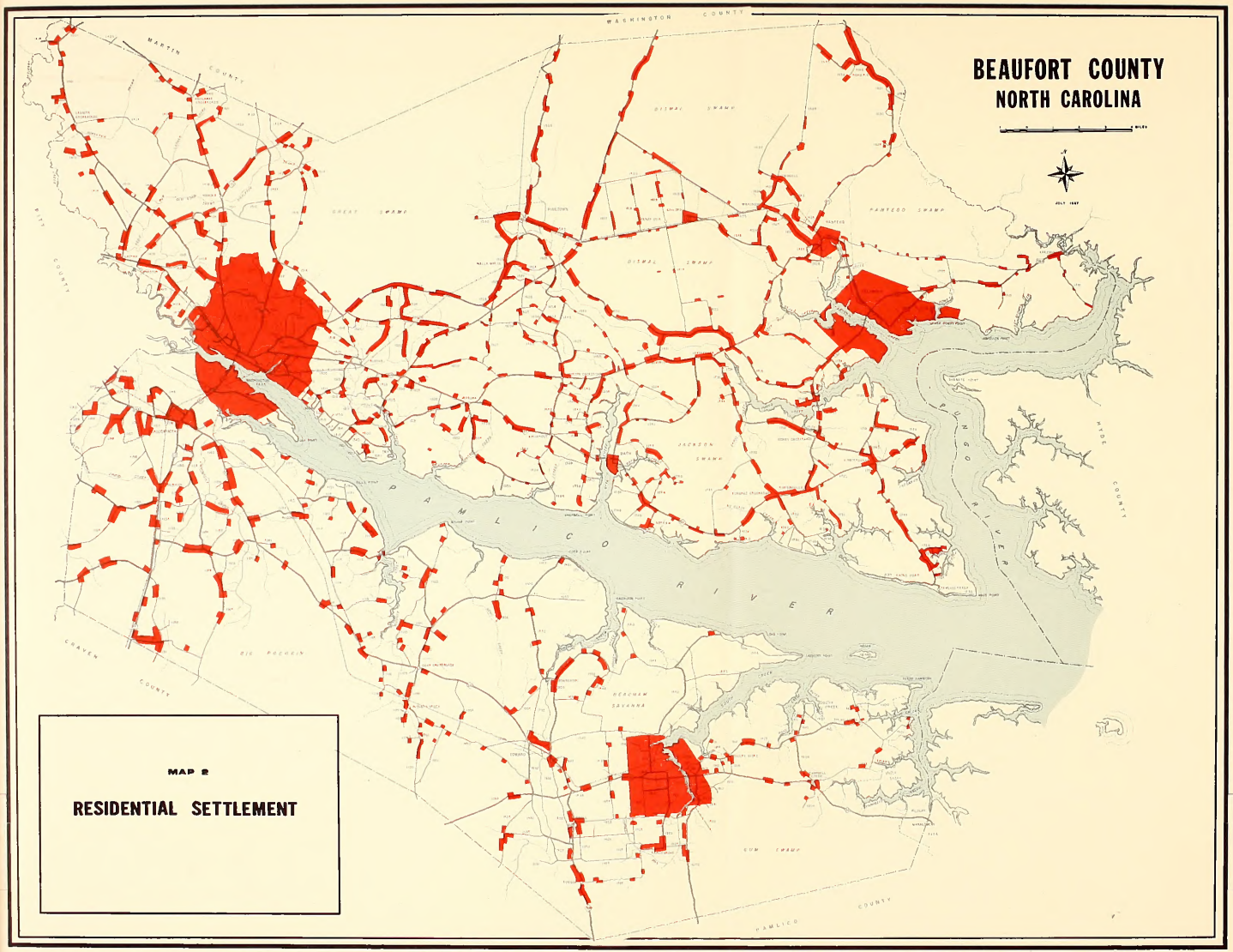
BEAUFORT COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
WASHINGTON COUNTY
MARTIN COUNTY
PITT COUNTY
CRAVEN COUNTY
PAMLICO COUNTY
HYDE COUNTY
PAMLICO RIVER
PINGO RIVER
GREAT SWAMP
BISMAL SWAMP
PANTEGO SWAMP
JACKSON SWAMP
BIG PROCTIN
PEACHUM SAVANNA
GUM SWAMP
MAP 2
RESIDENTIAL SETTLEMENT

CURRENT POPULATION

Both the size and the distribution of the current population have been determined by past trends of migration and natural increase. In early 1966, a special census taken in Beaufort County revealed a county population of 36,134 people, an increase of 120 people since 1960. Assuming an average increase of 20 people per year since 1960, the current population is estimated to be approximately 36,165 people.

The distribution of the current population of the county is shown on the Population Distribution Map.[1] From the map, it is obvious that well over one half of the county's population is now located within ten miles of the City of Washington. This is evidence that the trend of decreasing agricultural employment and increasing employment in other industries is continuing.

CHARACTERISTICS

Population characteristics to be examined are distribution by age, sex, and race; educational attainment; income; and housing conditions. However, since housing conditions are included in the Land Potential Study, they are not discussed here.

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[1]The information shown on this map was derived from the most recent census data and a housing survey conducted in the rural areas of the county.

AGE, SEX, AND RACE

An age, sex, and racial breakdown of the Beaufort County population is shown in Charts 3 and 4. Each of these characteristics is discussed separately below.

Age

The information in the charts is indicative of the local trends in migration and natural increase. In other words, an unusually high rate of natural increase resulting in a heavy concentration of population in the 0-19 year old group is followed by a high rate of out-migration in the 20-39 year old group.

The median age of the population is shown in Table 6.[1] The median age of the county population is increasing,

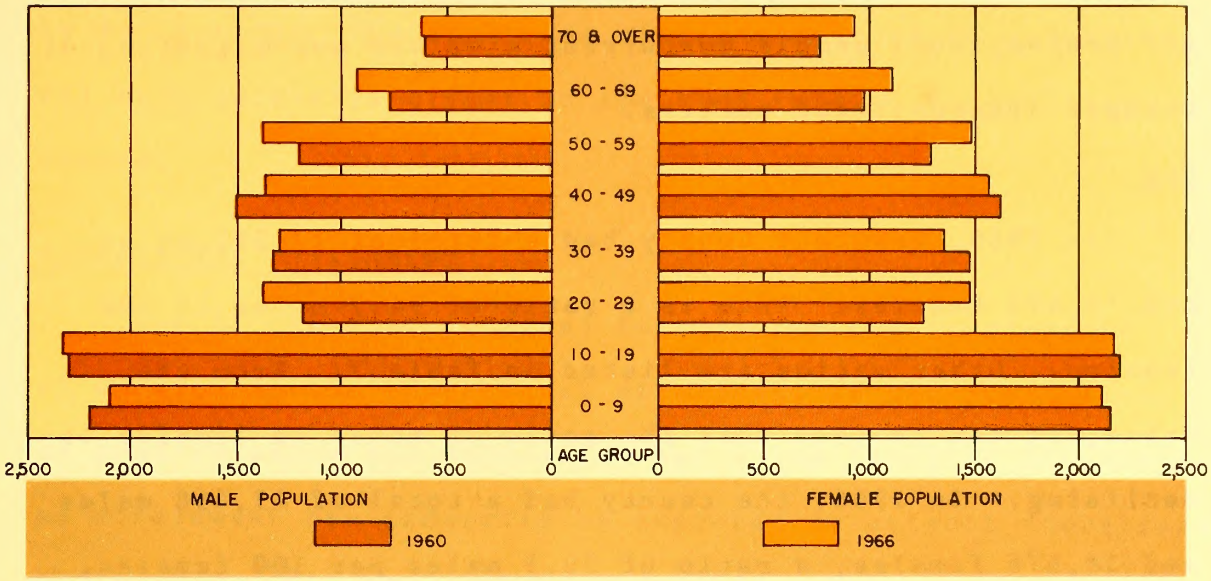
TABLE 6. MEDIAN AGE OF POPULATION, 1960, 1966

Population	MEDIAN AGE (YEARS)		
	1960		1966
	Beaufort County	North Carolina	Beaufort County
White Male	25.4	26.2	29.3
White Female	32.0	28.6	32.7
Nonwhite Male	17.7	18.8	18.0
Nonwhite Female	19.7	20.7	20.0

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

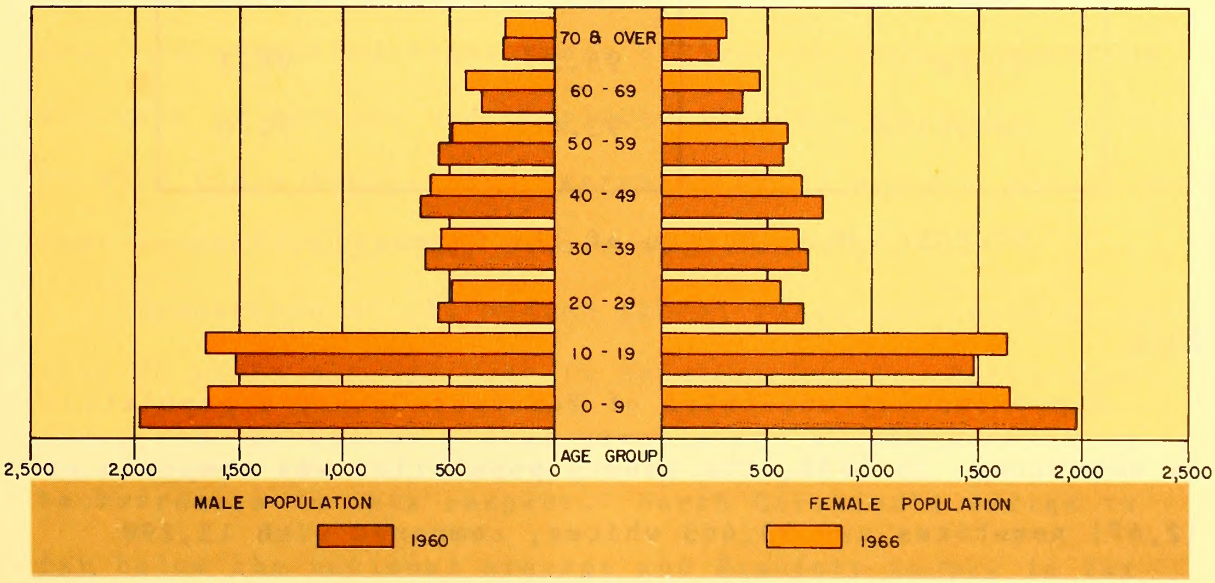
[1] One-half of the population is older than or equal in age to the median and one-half is younger than or equal in age to the median.

Chart 3. White Population By Age And Sex, Beaufort County.



SOURCE: U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

Chart 4. Nonwhite Population By Age And Sex, Beaufort County.



SOURCE: U. S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

probably due to the in-migration of older skilled craftsmen and professional people concurrent with the out-migration of younger inexperienced workers.

Sex

In 1960, Beaufort County had a total of 17,521 males and 18,493 females. This is a ratio of 94.7 males to 100 females. Other ratios are listed in Table 7. From the table, it can be seen that the ratio of males to females is declining. In 1966, the county had a total of 17,458 males and 18,676 females, a ratio of 93.5 males per 100 females.

TABLE 7. RATIO OF MALES TO FEMALES, BEAUFORT COUNTY, 1960, 1966

Population	Ratio (Males per 100 Females)	
	1960	1966
Total	94.7	93.5
White	95.5	94.3
Nonwhite	93.4	92.0

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

Race

Approximately one-third of Beaufort County's population is nonwhite. In 1966, the county population was composed of 12,671 nonwhites and 23,463 whites, compared with 13,290 nonwhites and 22,724 whites in the 1960 population. In other words, between 1960 and 1966 the white population

increased by 739 people and the nonwhite population decreased by 619 people. The high rate of out-migration by nonwhites was only partially offset by the high rate of natural increase.

EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT

One of the most critical factors for the development of an area is the educational attainment of the population. An area in which the population has a low level of educational attainment can generally be expected to attract industries whose principal labor input is unskilled labor. This type worker commands the low manufacturing wage prevalent in North Carolina, not because he is being taken advantage of but because of his low level of education and skills.

The educational attainment of the Beaufort County population 25 years old and over is shown in Tables 8 and 9. In 1950, over 60 percent of the population 25 years old and over had completed eight years or less of formal education and over 82 percent had completed 11 years or less. Although in 1960 these figures had decreased to 59 percent and 74 percent respectively, they remain much too high.

Comparison of the median school years completed by persons 25 years old and over in Beaufort County, North Carolina, and the United States reveals the county's relative backwardness in this respect. North Carolina's median is far below the national average and Beaufort County is far behind the state in median schools years completed by persons 25 years old and over.

TABLE 8. EDUCATIONAL ATTAINMENT OF POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER, BEAUFORT COUNTY

Subject	1950		1960	
	Number	Percent of Total	Number	Percent of Total
Population 25 Years Old & Over	18,185	100.0	18,508	100.0
Years of School Completed				
School Years Not Reported	275	1.5	--	--
No. School Years Completed	865	4.8	733	4.0
1 to 4 Years	3,910	21.5	3,065	16.6
5 to 7 Years	5,795	31.9	5,355	28.9
8 Years	1,505	8.3	1,773	9.6
9 to 11 Years	2,970	16.3	2,801	15.1
12 Years	1,530	8.4	3,050	16.5
College: 1 to 3 Years	735	4.0	1,003	5.4
4 Years or More	600	3.3	728	3.9

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

TABLE 9. MEDIAN SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED FOR POPULATION 25 YEARS OLD AND OVER, 1960

Population	MEDIAN SCHOOL YEARS COMPLETED		
	Beaufort County	North Carolina	United States
Total	8.1	8.9	10.6
Nonwhite	6.1	7.0	8.2

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The value of education in relation to the county's overall development potential is discussed in a later section.

INCOME

The final population characteristic to be discussed in this study is family and personal income. In a region traditionally oriented toward agriculture and with a low level of educational attainment by the adult population, low incomes can be expected to be prevalent. This is the case in Beaufort County.

As shown in Chart 5, almost 60 percent of the families earned less than 25 percent of the total family income in 1959. Although this is an improvement over the 1949 figures, there is need for much greater improvement in the future. Many authorities classify families with less than $3,000 annual income as poverty stricken. According to this classification, an extremely large percentage of families in Beaufort County are living in poverty.

In comparison with the same measures for the state and nation, measures of average income in Beaufort County are very low. These measures, mean and median family income and per capita income, are listed in Table 10.[1] Median family income and per capita income for Beaufort County are less than one-half as high as the same measures for the

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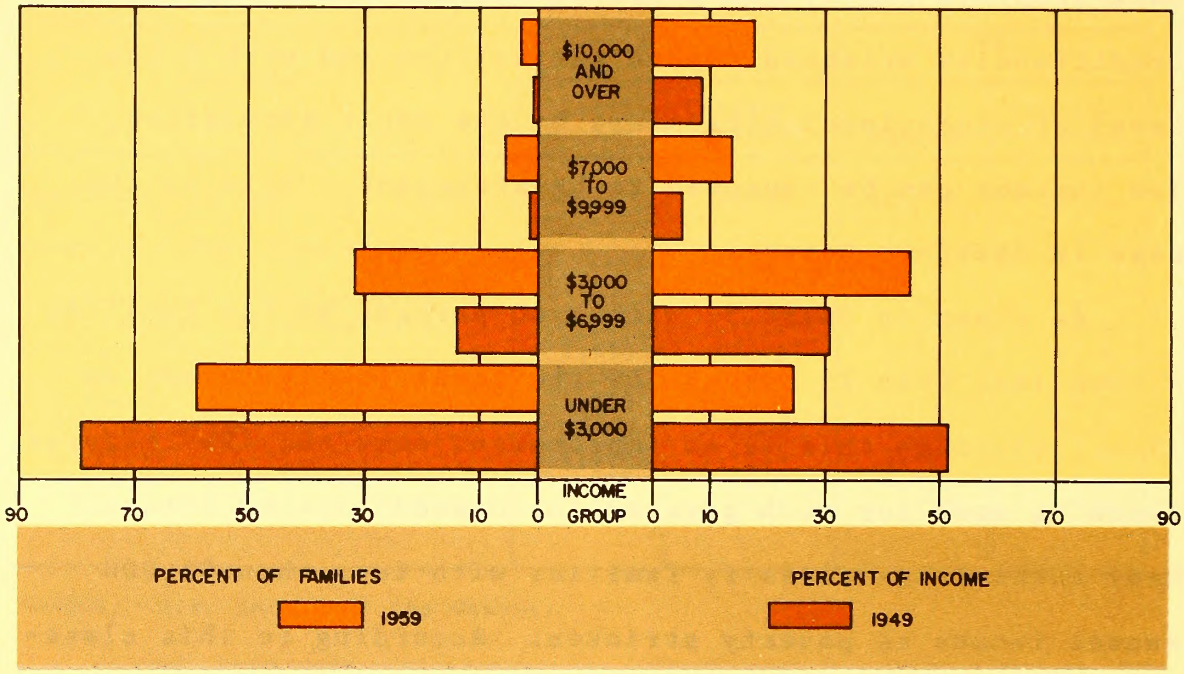
[1]Mean family income is total family income divided by the total number of families; one-half of the families earn incomes less than or equal to the median and the other half earn incomes greater than or equal to the median; and per capita income is the total personal income divided by the total population.

Chart 5. Distribution Of Family Income, Beaufort County.



SOURCE: U.S. BUREAU OF THE CENSUS.

TABLE 10. MEASURES OF AVERAGE INCOME, 1959

Subject	AREA		
	Beaufort County	North Carolina	United States
Median Family Income	$2,409	$3,956	$5,660
Mean Family Income	3,352	4,838	6,636
Per Capita Income	833	1,260	2,168

SOURCE: U. S. Bureau of the Census

United States. Nonwhite income in the county is much lower than the average, as illustrated by the fact that nonwhite median family income was only $1,366 in 1959.

Obviously, incomes throughout the nation have increased since 1959. In order for Beaufort County to realize any relative progress in this respect, average income in the county must increase at a faster rate than the rate of increase in other areas.

CHAPTER 2 - LABOR FORCE

This chapter is a continuation of background information about the recent development trends in Beaufort County. The major emphasis in this chapter is on the utilization of human resources in the county.

In analyzing labor force and employment trends, two sources of data are used; the U.S. Bureau of the Census and the Employment Security Commission of North Carolina. It should be noted that data from these two sources cannot be compared directly because census data is based on place of residence, whereas Employment Security Commission data is based on place of work.

LABOR FORCE[1]

From 1940 to 1950, the Beaufort County labor force increased by 4.7 percent. However, as shown in Table 11, the situation was reversed between 1950 and 1960. The decrease of 9.7 percent during this period was only a portion of the 17.6 percent decrease in the male labor force. On the other hand, the female labor force increased by substantial amounts during each period. In addition, the percentage of the female population, 14 years old and over, in the labor force

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[1]The labor force includes all persons 14 years old or over who are working or are able, willing, and available for work.

TABLE 11. LABOR FORCE, BEAUFORT COUNTY

SUBJECT	1940	1950	Percent Change	1960	Percent Change
Population, 14 & Over	25,233	25,398	0.7	24,177	- 4.8
Labor Force	12,249	12,829	4.7	11,586	- 9.7
Percent of Total	48.5	50.5	--	47.9	--
Civilian Labor Force	11,839	12,818	8.3	11,536	-10.0
Male, 14 & Over	12,335	12,343	0.1	11,508	- 6.8
Labor Force	9,794	9,704	-0.9	7,997	17.6
Percent of Total	79.4	78.6	--	69.5	--
Civilian Labor Force	9,384	9,693	3.3	7,947	-18.0
Female, 14 & Over	12,898	13,055	1.2	12,669	- 3.0
Labor Force	2,455	3,125	27.3	3,589	14.8
Percent of Total	19.0	23.9	--	28.3	--

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

increased substantially during each period. However, neither males nor females in the county participate in the labor force to the extent that the same groups do in the state and nation. This might be indicative of a large pool of potential labor which will enter the labor force if satisfactory job opportunities become available.

Employment Security Commission data is used to depict the more recent trend in the size of the labor force. As revealed in Table 12, the annual average civilian labor force increased by 360 people between 1962 and 1965. Because of new industries in the county, further increases in the labor force may be expected.

TABLE 12. ANNUAL AVERAGE CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE, BEAUFORT COUNTY

YEAR	CIVILIAN LABOR FORCE
1962	12,910
1963	13,400
1964	13,560
1965	13,270

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, Bureau of Employment Security Research.

EMPLOYMENT

The size of the civilian labor force is only an indication of the number of people desiring employment, including employed and unemployed people. Estimates of actual employment in the county from 1962 through 1965 are shown in Table 13. During this period, total employment in the

TABLE 13. ANNUAL AVERAGE EMPLOYMENT, BEAUFORT COUNTY

YEAR	EMPLOYMENT
1962	12,150
1963	12,600
1964	12,820
1965	12,670

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, Bureau of Employment Security Research.

county increased by 520 workers. This is a good indication that the county's economy is expanding. However, within the total picture, employment in some industries is increasing and in other industries employment is decreasing.

EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY

In Table 14, employment of county residents in major industrial categories is shown. Major increases in employ-

TABLE 14. EMPLOYMENT BY INDUSTRY GROUP, BEAUFORT COUNTY

EMPLOYMENT CATEGORY	Year		
	1940	1950	1960
Agriculture	5,728	4,928	2,980
Manufacturing	1,115	1,540	1,852
Construction	333	697	711
Transportation, Communications, and Utilities	264	358	440
Business and Repair Services	136	219	183
Wholesale Trade	215	344	413
Retail Trade	1,055	1,657	1,702
Finance, Insurance, and Professional Services	609	914	1,134
Government	231	280	318
Private Household Work	735	646	712
Other Personal Services	305	453	310
All Others	181	259	296
TOTAL	10,907	12,295	11,051

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census.

ment have occurred in manufacturing; construction; wholesale and retail trade; and finance, insurance, and professional services. The major significant decrease has been in agriculture. Further significant increases may be expected in those categories, mentioned above, which have increased. In addition, substantial employment in mining may be expected in the future.

SEASONAL EMPLOYMENT

A portion of the employment in Beaufort County is seasonal in nature. As shown in Table 15, third quarter employment in Beaufort County in 1965 was over 2,000 workers

TABLE 15. WORK FORCE DATA BY QUARTER, BEAUFORT COUNTY, 1965

	NUMBER			
	First Quarter	Second Quarter	Third Quarter	Fourth Quarter
Civilian Work Force	11,690	13,140	15,210	13,040
Unemployment, Total	640	610	590	570
Rate of Unemployment	5.5	4.6	3.9	4.4
Employment, Total	11,050	12,530	14,620	12,470
Manufacturing	2,240	2,380	2,460	2,600
Construction	310	330	370	360
Transportation, Communication, and Public Utilities	290	280	320	300
Trade	1,640	1,740	1,760	1,680
Finance, Insurance, and Real Estate	230	240	240	240
Service	730	740	750	740
Government	1,350	1,350	1,320	1,400
Other Nonmanufacturing	140	200	270	270
All Other Employment*	4,120	5,270	7,130	4,880

*Includes Agricultural and Nonagricultural Self-Employed, Unpaid Family and Domestic Workers.

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina, Bureau of Employment Security Research.

higher than employment during any other quarter. Nearly all of this increased employment is accounted for in the "all other employment" category which includes agricultural and nonagricultural self-employed, unpaid family, and domestic workers. The majority of the third quarter seasonal employment is unpaid family and other workers who help to harvest the county's agricultural products. Since most of these people are not available for work during the remainder of the year, the fact that this seasonal employment exists presents no unemployment problem for the county.

UNEMPLOYMENT

Another aspect of the employment picture to be considered is the extent and duration of unemployment in Beaufort County. It is important to consider, not only how many are unemployed, but also, who are the unemployed in terms of skills, education, and occupational groups. To identify these factors, two measures of unemployment are used: the rate of total unemployment and the ratio of insured unemployment.[1]

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[1]The unemployed are all persons 14 years of age and over who are not working at all, are able and available for work, and are looking for work. The rate of unemployment is the unemployed expressed as a percent of the total labor force. The ratio of insured unemployment is the number of unemployed people covered by the employment insurance law expressed as a percentage of the employed people covered by the employment insurance law.

RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

During the past five years, the rate of unemployment in Beaufort County has remained close to the rates for North Carolina and the United States. As shown in Table 16, the estimated rate of unemployment for the county was below the

TABLE 16. ESTIMATED RATE OF UNEMPLOYMENT

	Rate of Unemployment		
Year	Beaufort County	North Carolina	United States
1962	5.9	5.3	5.6
1963	6.0	5.1	5.7
1964	5.5	4.8	5.2
1965	4.5	4.2	4.6
1966	3.4	3.2	3.9

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

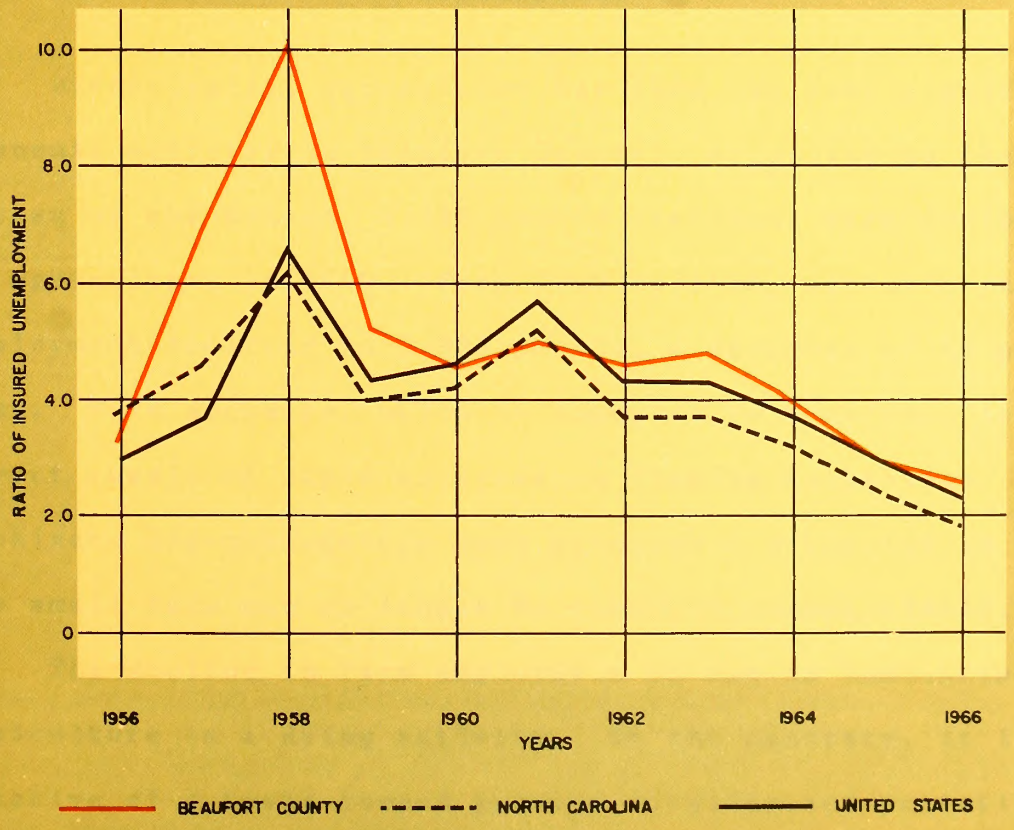
United States rate for 1965. This is an indication of a "tight" local labor market in which the majority of people actively seeking employment are able to find suitable jobs. However, this may not be an indication of the actual number of people who desire and need employment and would actively seek employment if they thought that positions were available to them. The possibility that the county has a number of people who desire work but are discouraged to the extent that they no longer actively seek employment is supported by two facts. First, the county has a relatively low labor force participation rate, although the majority of people

in the county must rely on employment as their major source of income. Second, the high rate of out-migration from the county supports the theory that the low rate of unemployment does not accurately reflect the number of people desiring employment. The majority of people who migrate from the county do so because of a lack of job opportunities in the county.

INSURED UNEMPLOYMENT

The ratio of insured unemployment is a good measure of unemployment among experienced workers. In turn, it is a measure of unemployment among skilled workers. As shown in Chart 6, the ratio of insured unemployment in Beaufort County

Chart 6. Ratio Of Insured Unemployment.



SOURCE: EMPLOYMENT SECURITY COMMISION OF NORTH CAROLINA BUREAU OF EMPLOYMENT SECURITY RESEARCH

was extremely high in 1958 (a period of national recession), but much lower during succeeding years. In 1966, the county ratio of insured unemployment was only 2.4, indicating a "tight" market for skilled and experienced labor. This situation probably results from two significant factors: the demand for skilled and experienced labor is stronger than the overall demand for labor and the supply of skilled and experienced labor in the local market is very limited. The supply of skilled labor can be increased through development of skills in the unskilled portion of the labor force as well as those who might desire work although they are not presently counted in the labor force.

CHAPTER 3 - PRINCIPAL ECONOMIC ACTIVITIES

The two preceding chapters are concerned with human resources and the degree of utilization of these resources in Beaufort County. Although not concerned directly with human or physical resources, this chapter is significant because in it the activities which consume the major portion of these resources are discussed. Specifically, these principal economic activities are agriculture, forestry, fishing, manufacturing, phosphate mining, tourism, and retail trade. These activities are discussed individually in this chapter.

AGRICULTURE

Historically, agriculture has been the most significant economic activity in Beaufort County. According to the U.S. Bureau of the Census, 5,728 county residents were employed in agriculture in 1940. From 1940 to 1960, agricultural employment declined to 2,980 people, a decrease of 48 percent. This decrease, which is expected to continue, is a direct result of rapid advances in farming technology. New machinery and methodology have produced a situation in which the small farm can no longer be operated competitively.

The decline in farm employment is not an indication that agriculture is a dying activity. On the contrary, it is indicative of a trend toward greater vitality and potential for expanding production. In Table 17, the recent trends

TABLE 17. SUMMARY OF FARM ACREAGE AND FARMS BY SIZE, TYPE, AND ECONOMIC CLASS

SUBJECT	1959	1964
Approximate Acres of Land Area	531,840	531,840
Proportion in Farms	46.2	41.3
Farms, Acreage, and Value		
Total Farms	2,359	1,683
Acres in Farms	245,766	219,839
Average Size of Farm	104.2	130.6
Value of Land and Buildings:		
Average Per Farm	$17,022	$33,028
Average Per Acre	183.12	252.66
Farms by Size		
Less than 10 Acres	176	95
10 to 49 Acres	935	556
50 to 69 Acres	325	233
70 to 99 Acres	270	207
100 to 139 Acres	222	184
140 to 179 Acres	134	114
180 to 219 Acres	81	80
220 to 259 Acres	48	49
260 to 499 Acres	114	104
500 to 999 Acres	37	42
1,000 to 1,999 Acres	11	13
2,000 Acres or More	6	6
Farms by Type		
Field-Crop Farms Other Than Vegetable and Fruit and Nut	1,433	1,269
Cash-Grain	193	248
Tobacco	1,225	1,008
Cotton	5	2
Other Field Crops	10	11
Vegetable	-	5
Fruit and Nut	-	1
Poultry	85	21
Dairy	6	12
Livestock Other Than Poultry and Dairy	61	47
General	182	51
Miscellaneous and Unclassified	571	277
Farms By Economic Class		
Commercial Farms	1,813	1,428
Class I (Sales of $40,000 or More)	16	63
Class II (Sales of $20,000 to $39,999)	43	150
Class III (Sales of $10,000 to $19,999)	248	377
Class IV (Sales of $5,000 to $9,999)	586	362
Class V (Sales of $2,500 to $4,999)	600	292
Class VI (Sales of $50 to $2,499)	320	184
Other Farms	525	255
Part Time (Operator Working Off Farm 100 Days or More, Sales $50 to $2,499)	335	129
Part Retirement (Operator 65 Years Old and Over, Sales $50 to $2,499)	190	126
Abnormal	-	-

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, 1964 Census of Agriculture, Preliminary Report.

in agriculture are revealed. Although the total number of farms has decreased significantly, the number of farms over 500 acres in size has increased. Also, commercial farms with sales of $10,000 and over increased from 307 in 1959 to 590 in 1964, an increase of 92 percent. The average value of farms increased from $17,022 to $33,028 during the same period. These figures are sufficient to reveal that farming is gradually becoming big business in Beaufort County. Farms which do not utilize the best scientific methods, or which are too small to employ modern machinery, are at a competitive disadvantage and will be forced out of the markets by more efficient units which can produce and sell commodities at a lower price. Therefore, the trend toward larger farms with greater capital value should continue.

Two other emerging agricultural trends should be mentioned - the trend toward specialized farms and the drainage and cultivation of the black organic soil in the eastern part of the county. As the county farms become more specialized, they should become more efficient. Rather than being a jack of all agricultural trades, a farmer can master the specialized knowledge necessary to produce maximum quality and yields of one or two commodities.

The black organic soil in the eastern part of the county is economically attractive from two standpoints. It is very productive land, and it is in large tracts of level land which lends itself well to mechanization.

Although farm population and employment in Beaufort County have declined rapidly, agricultural production has increased significantly during the past ten years. Evidence of this increase is listed in Table 18. As reported by the

TABLE 18. GROSS INCOME FROM SALE OF FARM PRODUCTS, BEAUFORT COUNTY 1957-1966, ANTICIPATED GROSS INCOME 1971 (IN MILLIONS)

	1957	1958	1959	1960	1961	1962	1963	1964	1965	1966	1971
Total Income	11.6	19.0	17.8	22.3	20.3	18.3	27.4	28.3	29.3	30.2	37.5
Poultry & Turkey	.36	.44	.53	.80	.93	1.19	1.31	1.38	1.26	1.77	2.81
Beef Cattle	.18	.23	.28	.26	.30	.39	.39	.76	.62	.64	.75
Livestock Products	.57	.76	.68	.57	.55	.73	.73	.71	.68	.54	.78
Swine	1.29	1.56	1.44	1.66	1.98	2.14	1.79	2.08	2.88	3.60	4.36
Soybeans	1.9	1.9	1.8	2.2	2.6	2.6	3.3	3.4	4.1	4.5	7.1
Corn	.35	1.8	1.2	2.2	.89	1.4	1.6	1.8	2.4	1.5	3.9
Cotton, Peanuts, Small Grain, Sweet Potatoes, Lespedeza and Hay	.63	1.12	1.02	.89	.98	.89	1.09	.79	.78	.84	.87
Commercial Flowers	.40	.45	.42	.30	.32	.24	.30	.30	.30	.30	.60
Irish Potatoes	.28	.37	.87	.25	.30	.33	.50	.84	1.05	.54	.67
Vegetables	.09	.23	.21	.33	.24	.23	.23	.24	.22	.37	.51
Tobacco	5.4	7.9	6.8	10.4	8.0	5.1	10.6	10.4	9.1	9.9	10.0
Government Payments	.07	.52	.14	.12	.95	.97	.91	.89	1.07	1.18	-[2]
Forestry[1]	1.8	1.9	2.2	2.8	2.9	3.0	3.5	4.0	4.7	4.9	6.4

[1]Includes income from all forest land in the county.

[2]Increased demand for agricultural products may eliminate government payments.

SOURCE: North Carolina Agricultural Extension Service, County Agent, Beaufort County.

Agricultural Extension Service, total farm income increased by 160 percent between 1957 and 1966. Tobacco remains the most valuable crop in the county. However, livestock and livestock products, soybeans, and corn have increased significantly in value. Although not strictly a farm product, forestry contributes significantly to total agricultural income in the county.

The future of agriculture in Beaufort County seems very bright. However, those who will share this future will operate farms as businesses, rather than as a way of life. Specific agricultural potentials are discussed in greater detail in Part 2 of this study entitled Basis for Economic Growth.

FORESTRY

As a major consumer of land in Beaufort County, forestry must be included as one of the county's principal economic activities. As revealed in Table 19, commercial forests

TABLE 19. AREA BY LAND CLASS AND COMMERCIAL FOREST LAND BY OWNERSHIP CLASS, BEAUFORT COUNTY AND THE NORTHERN COASTAL PLAIN OF NORTH CAROLINA, 1963 (In thousand acres).

Land Class	Beaufort County		Northern Coastal Plain	
	Thousand Acres	Percent of Total	Thousand Acres	Percent of Total
All Land	531.9	100.0	6,780.3	100.0
Nonforest land	177.7	33.4	2,439.0	36.0
Forest land:				
Total	354.2	66.6	4,341.3	64.0
Commercial forests	354.2	66.6	4,302.4	63.5
Ownership of commercial forest land:				
All public	3.2	0.9	173.6	4.0
Forest industry	134.1	37.9	1,061.7	24.7
Pulp & Paper	134.1	37.9	897.0	20.8
Other	--	--	164.7	3.9
Farmer	176.1	49.7	2,022.1	47.0
Miscellaneous Private	40.8	11.5	1,045.0	24.3

SOURCE: U.S. Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station.

cover 66.6 percent of Beaufort County's land area. A high percentage (37.9 percent) of the county's commercial forests is owned by pulp and paper companies. It can be assumed that at least this portion of the county's forestry resources will be well managed.

The data in Table 19 is taken from the third forest survey made for the Northern Coastal Plain by the U.S. Forest Service. Based on this survey and the two earlier surveys, taken in 1937 and 1955, trends in the forest resources of the Northern Coastal Plain are summarized below.

> The recently completed third Forest Survey shows a continuation of the general improvement in the timber supply indicated by the second survey.
>
> Commercial forest land area, which increased about 2 percent between 1937 and 1955, has continued to increase but at a faster rate, having increased almost 4 percent between 1955 and 1963.
>
> Pine sawtimber volume showed the greatest improvement. While there had been almost no change in volume between the 1937 and 1955 inventories, the present pine sawtimber volume is 16 percent greater than the volume shown for 1955.
>
> The picture for hardwood sawtimber volume is not quite as good. In contrast to the almost 20 percent increase in hardwood sawtimber volume between 1935 and 1955, it increased only 3 percent from 1955 to 1963. Hardwood all-timber volume has followed the same pattern, increasing almost 26 percent between the first and second inventories, but only 6 percent between the last two inventories.
>
> The actual volume of timber cut in 1962 for this area is not shown, but trends in timber cut based on successive inventories indicate a 20 percent margin of cubic-foot volume growth over cut.

Softwood growth exceeds timber cut by about 31 percent, while hardwood growth exceeds timber cut by only about 10 percent.[1]

The information above is an indication that forestry will remain an important part of the local economy. However, very little, if any, employment gain may be expected in the forestry industry. As shown in Table 20, insured employment in forestry related industries actually declined in Beaufort County between 1961 and 1965.

TABLE 20. INSURED EMPLOYMENT IN FORESTRY BASED INDUSTRIES, BEAUFORT COUNTY, 1965

Industry	Insured			
	Employers		Employment	
	1961	1965	1961	1965
Logging Camps & Logging Contractors	14	14	100	100
Sawmills & Planing Mills	16	9	450	430
Household Furniture Manufacture	2	1		

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina.

[1]Preliminary Forest Survey Statistics for the Northern Coastal Plain of North Carolina, U.S. Forest Service, Southeastern Forest Experiment Station (Asheville, 1963).

FISHING

As a major economic activity, fishing is more significant for the eastern parts of Beaufort County than for the western portion. In Table 21, annual seafood landings in the county are shown. The majority of the county's fishing

TABLE 21. SEAFOOD LANDINGS, BEAUFORT COUNTY

Year	Thousands of Pounds	
	Fish	Shellfish
1957	447	4,187
1958	340	4,235
1959	386	3,609
1960	421	3,791
1961	418	2,896
1962	531	2,656
1963	366	3,527
1964	362	4,054
1965	790	4,788

SOURCE: North Carolina Landings, Annual Summaries 1957-1965, Bureau of Commercial Fisheries, U.S. Department of the Interior.

income is from shellfish, especially blue crabs. In 1965, only two other counties, Carteret and Dare, landed a greater volume of shellfish. Of Beaufort County's 3.527 million pounds of shellfish landed in 1963, over 92 percent was

blue crabs. It is expected that the crab industry will continue to expand and fishing will remain a significant part of the economy of eastern Beaufort County.

MANUFACTURING

Although the Beaufort County economy has been traditionally oriented toward agriculture, forestry, and fishing; manufacturing has emerged in recent years as the county's main source of new basic employment.[1] Statistics on the expansion of manufacturing activity in the county are listed in Table 22. In terms of value added, new capital expenditures, and number of employees, manufacturing activity in Beaufort County has increased by substantial amounts since 1954. This expansion is indicative of the increasing importance of manufacturing in the local economy. Since 1963, manufacturing activity has expanded at an accelerated pace. Manufacturing activity in the county can be expected to continue expanding as long as suitable labor is available.

Although some manufacturing industry is located in various places throughout the county, the majority of firms and employment are located in the Washington area. The majority of firms shown (on Map 3) in the eastern end of the

---

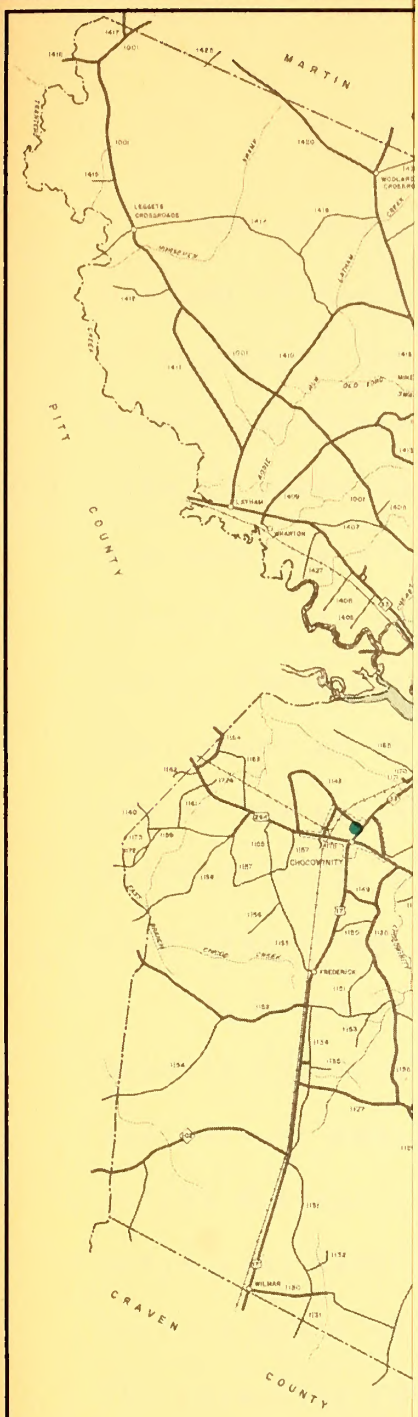
[1] Basic employment brings new money into an area's economy, whereas nonbasic employment only recirculates money which is already in the area.

TABLE 22. MANUFACTURING INDUSTRY IN BEAUFORT COUNTY

Subject	1954	1958	Percent Change	1963	Percent Change
No. of establishments	60	62	+ 3.3	62	0
No. of employees	1,028	1,371	+ 33.3	1,914	+ 39.6
Payroll ($000)	$2,080	$3,485	+ 67.5	$5,810	+ 66.7
Production Workers					
Number	876	1,099	+ 25.5	1,675	+ 52.4
Manhours (000)	1,539	1,952	+ 26.8	3,511	+ 79.9
Wages ($1,000)	$1,537	$2,417	+ 57.3	$ 4,719	+ 95.2
Value added by manufacture ($000)	$3,374	$8,472	+151.1	$12,352	+ 45.8
New Capital expenditures ($000)	$ 247	$ 483	+ 95.5	$ 1,031	+113.5

SOURCE: U.S. Bureau of the Census, Census of Manufacture, 1954, 1958, and 1963.

county are located there in order to be near their source of raw materials. This is not the case with the larger industries located in the Washington area. Obviously, the City of Washington has a tremendous locational advantage over the remainder of the county in attracting new industry because of transportation, population distribution, and community facilities. Therefore, it is expected that the major portion of any expansion in manufacturing employment will occur in the Washington area.



MAP 3

Location

Manufacturing I

- 0 - 50 EM
- 51 - 100 EI
- 101 - 250 EI
- 250 EMPLOYEE

SOURCE: N. C. DIRECTORY OF MA
1964 AND 1966 SUP

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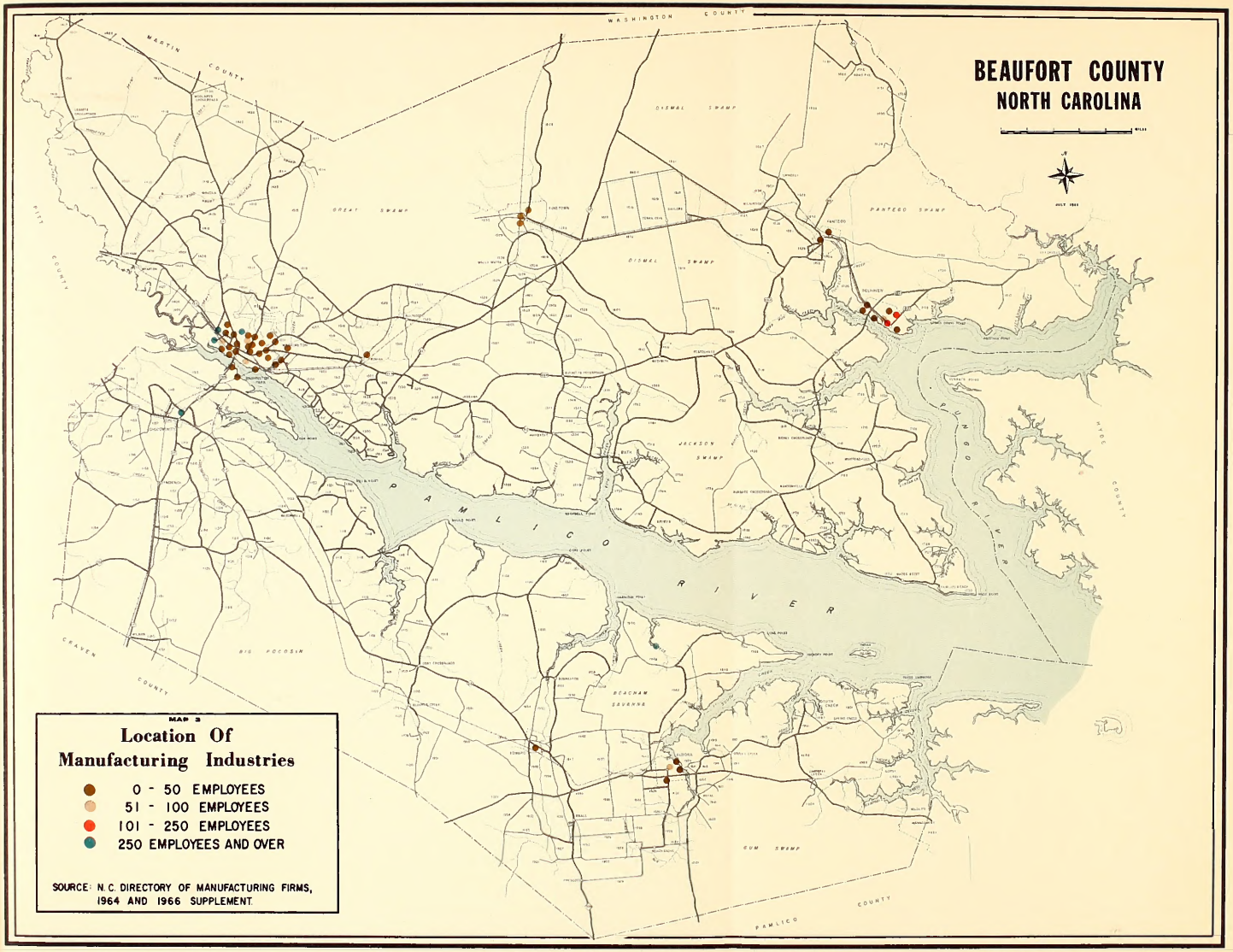

BEAUFORT COUNTY
NORTH CAROLINA
WASHINGTON COUNTY
MARTIN COUNTY
PITT COUNTY
CRAVEN COUNTY
PAMLICO COUNTY
HYDE COUNTY
GREAT SWAMP
DISMAL SWAMP
PANTEGO SWAMP
JACKSON SWAMP
BIG POCOSIN
BEACHAM SAVANNA
GUM SWAMP
PAMLICO RIVER
PUNGO RIVER
LONGTOWN
PANTEGO
DELHAVEN
BONNER CROSSROADS
BATH
ALLIGATOR
MAP 2
Location Of
Manufacturing Industries
0 - 50 EMPLOYEES
51 - 100 EMPLOYEES
101 - 250 EMPLOYEES
250 EMPLOYEES AND OVER
SOURCE: N.C. DIRECTORY OF MANUFACTURING FIRMS,
1964 AND 1966 SUPPLEMENT

THE PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY

The phosphate industry is a recent addition to the economy of Beaufort County. After several years of testing of phosphate deposits under and surrounding the Pamlico River, the Texas Gulf Sulphur Company announced plans in 1964 to begin immediate development of an open-pit mine and a processing plant at Lee Creek near Aurora. Today, this company is in operation with an annual production of approximately three million tons of phosphate rock product. Total employment at this mine and plant is approximately 600 workers at the present time. This is the beginning of what is expected to be a vast complex of phosphate mining and processing industries in Beaufort County.

It is estimated that the Beaufort County phosphate deposit consists of 1.5 billion tons of easily mineable ore and several additional billions of tons which can be mined in the distant future. In addition to the company now in operation, several companies are running exploratory tests on land which they either own or hold mineral rights on. The potential for further development of the phosphate deposits and the potential for the phosphate industry in general are discussed in Part 2 of this publication.

COMMERCE

Commercial activity of any significance in Beaufort County is limited to three areas -- Washington, Belhaven, and Aurora. The City of Washington is the commercial center for a large surrounding area. To a lesser degree, Belhaven serves as a commercial center for Northeastern Beaufort County and Hyde County. Aurora serves as a neighborhood shopping center for the southeastern portion of the county.

Using retail sales as an indicator, Table 23 illustrates the wide influence of commercial firms in Beaufort County. In the table, the ratio of retail sales during the fiscal

TABLE 23. PER CAPITA RETAIL SALES AND PER CAPITA INCOMES

Area	Per Capita Retail Sales		Per Capita Income		Ratio of 1960 Retail Sales to 1959 Income
	1950-51 (In 1960 Dollars)	1960-61	1949 (In 1959 Dollars)	1959	
North Carolina	$824	$1,164	$830	$1,260	92.4
Beaufort County	670	966	563	833	116.0
Pitt County	702	1,001	669	887	112.9
Craven County	804	968	867	1,151	84.1
Martin County	552	758	515	729	104.0
Hyde County	212	441	410	750	58.8
Washington County	558	750	679	937	80.0
Pamlico County	231	428	552	847	50.5

SOURCE: Gross Retail Sales Figures from N.C. Department of Revenue. Per Capita Incomes from U.S. Bureau of the Census.

year 1960-61 to 1959 income for Beaufort County is compared with the ratios for the surrounding counties and for North Carolina. Based on these figures, it is evident that Beaufort County firms draw a large number of customers from some of the surrounding counties. The majority of out-of-county customers probably come from the counties to the northeast and east of Beaufort. This area has no large towns and the people must pass through Williamston or Belhaven and Washington in order to travel west. Also, shopping facilities to the north are located across the Albemarle Sound. Obviously, the towns of Belhaven and Washington have very little competition for the business of many of these people. However, improved shopping facilities and services to customers in other nearby cities and towns, such as Greenville and Williamston, can funnel Beaufort County's expanding trade into these towns unless local firms remain competitive in terms of facilities, selection, services, and prices. In many ways local trade seems to be geared to an agricultural community while the population is shifting rapidly from agriculture to other occupations. People who do not find it convenient to shop during the daylight hours find it necessary to travel to Greenville and New Bern to shop after local stores close.

The downtown Redevelopment Project in Washington provides an excellent opportunity for the merchants there to enhance their shopping atmosphere. A determined improvement

effort on the part of each local store would be well rewarded through new customers and increased sales. The opportunity exists for downtown Washington to have most of the advantages of a shopping center in addition to the advantages of a downtown shopping area.

Recent trends in commercial activity in Beaufort County are shown in Table 24. Retail sales and receipts in service businesses have increased since 1954. Although wholesale

TABLE 24. TRENDS IN COMMERCIAL ACTIVITY, BEAUFORT COUNTY

Subject	1954	1958	Percent Change	1963	Percent Change
Retail Trade					
No. of establishments	432	449	+ 3.9	429	- 4.5
Sales ($000)	$28,332	$28,942	+ 2.2	$40,797	+41.0
Payroll ($000)	$ 2,294	$ 2,503	+ 9.1	$ 3,349	+33.8
No. of employees	1,181	1,245	+ 5.4	1,309	+ 5.1
Wholesale Trade					
No. of establishments	50	59	+18.0	62	+ 5.1
Sales ($000)	$36,776	$27,248	-25.9	$32,610	+19.7
Payroll ($000)	$ 1,388	$ 1,296	- 6.6	$ 1,746	+34.7
No. of employees	544	383	-29.6	481	+25.6
Selected Services					
No. of establishments	136	143	+ 5.1	187	+30.8
Receipts ($000)	$ 1,765	$ 2,306	+30.7	$ 2,630	+14.1
Payroll ($000)	$ 404	$ 446	+10.4	$ 531	+19.1
No. of employees	294	309	+ 5.1	274	-11.3

SOURCE: U.S. Census of Business - 1954, 1958, and 1963.

sales decreased between 1954 and 1958, an increase of over $5,000,000 occurred from 1958 to 1963. It is expected that activity in each category will continue to increase.

As shown in Table 25, the largest portion of retail sales is food sales. Other strong sales groups are general merchandise and automotive sales.

TABLE 25. GROSS RETAIL SALES, BEAUFORT COUNTY, JULY 1, 1965 - JUNE 30, 1966

CATEGORY	RETAIL SALES	PERCENT OF TOTAL
1% Retail Sales[1]	$ 2,258,265	4.1
1½% Auto and Planes[2]	6,343,954	11.5
Apparel	1,435,936	2.6
Automotive	9,963,110	18.1
Food	13,533,596	24.6
Furniture	2,168,120	3.9
General Merchandise	10,245,677	18.6
Building Materials	3,452,366	6.3
Unclassified Group	5,703,907	10.3
TOTAL	$55,104,931	100.0

SOURCE: N.C. Department of Revenue.

[1] Includes farm, mill, and laundry machinery; telephone, broadcasting, and freezer-locker equipment; and fuels sold to farmers, manufacturers, and laundries.

[2] Includes automobiles and airplanes on which 1½ percent sales tax is collected.

Part 2

BASIS FOR ECONOMIC GROWTH

INTRODUCTION

Part 1 of this study is an analysis of economic growth trends in Beaufort County. This analysis is necessary in order to provide an understanding of the county's past development and present economic situation.

In Part 2, the emphasis is on future growth; that is, the resources available for growth are emphasized. These resources, both human and physical, should be recognized and developed to their fullest potential.

The resources and potentials mentioned in this part are the basic substance whereby the goals and programs of Part 3 can be implemented.

CHAPTER 4 - HUMAN RESOURCES DURING THE PLANNING PERIOD

This chapter on human resources is a study of the population and labor force available for development of the county. Necessarily, much of this information is estimated, and various developments which may or may not occur will have a great influence on population growth in Beaufort County.

POPULATION

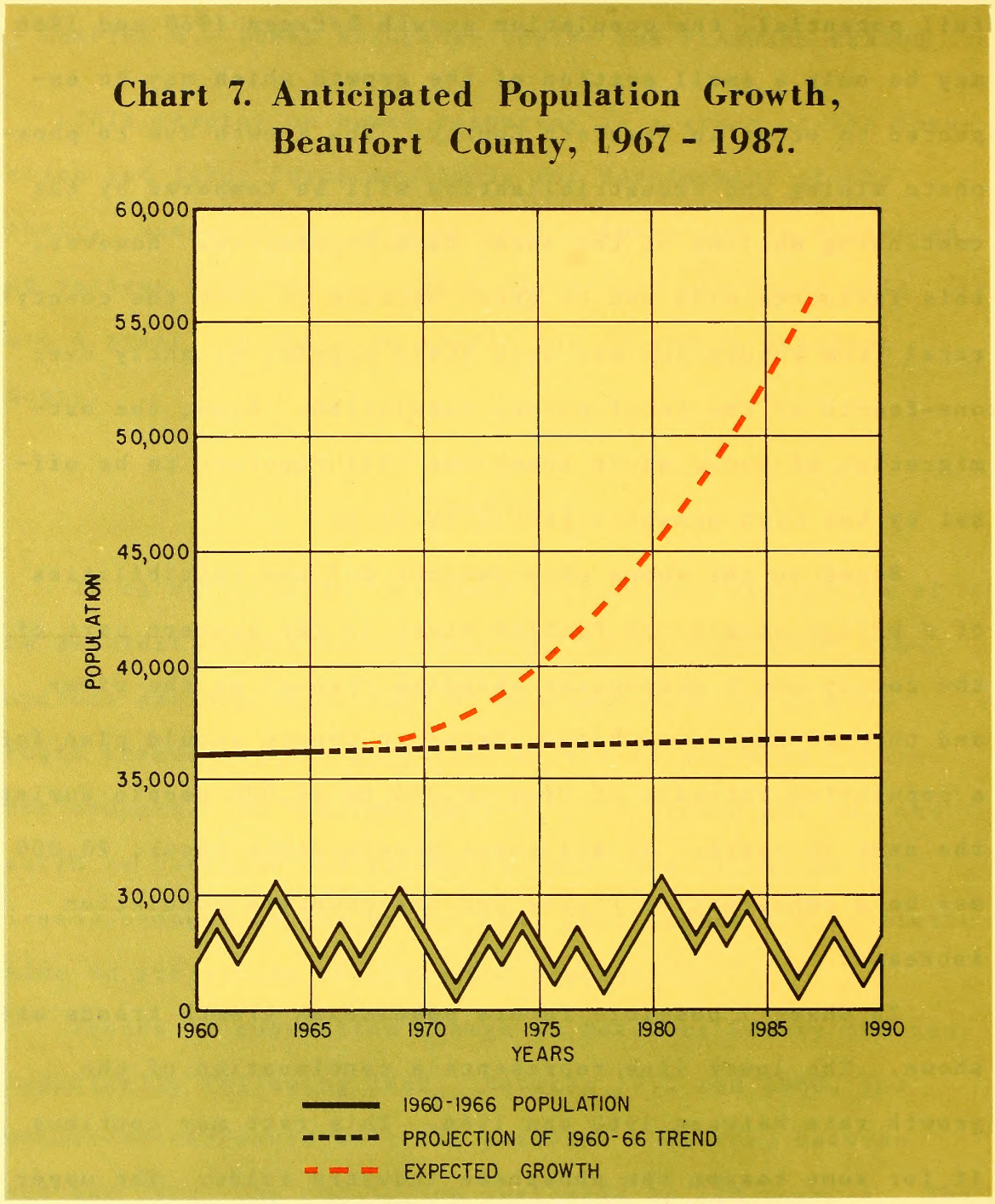
It is unrealistic to expect an accurate projection of the Beaufort County population. At best, population projections are approximations of the continuation of past growth trends and the estimated effect of expected future developments. In Beaufort County, past trends are not expected to continue unaltered; in fact, the situation has already changed to the extent that past trends are of little value in projecting the county's population.

Trends in population change in Beaufort County changed dramatically following 1960. Between 1950 and 1960, the population decreased by 1,120 persons. However, between 1960 and 1966, the population increased by 120 persons. The abrupt change can be attributed to an accelerated rate of industrialization in the county. A large part of the industrialization is due to the emergence of phosphate mining as a major industry. If the phosphate industry develops to its

full potential, the population growth between 1960 and 1966 may be only a small portion of the growth which may be expected to occur in Beaufort County. The growth due to phosphate mining and industrialization will be tempered by the continuing decline of the local farm population. However, this influence will not be great because in 1960 the county's rural farm population was only 9,495 people, slightly over one-fourth of the total county population. Also, the out-migration of young adult nonwhites will continue to be offset by the high nonwhite fertility rates.

Based on the above observations and the possibilities of a bridge across the Pamlico River in the eastern part of the county and a deep-water shipping channel up the river and through the outer banks, Beaufort County should plan for a population increase of from 10,000 to 20,000 people during the next 20 years. If all these developments occur, 20,000 may be a conservative figure for the county's population increase.

In Chart 7 possible future population growth trends are shown. The lower line represents a continuation of the growth rate between 1960 and 1966. This rate may continue if for some reason the phosphate industry folds. The upper line represents the probable growth trend if the county gains 20,000 people during the planning period. Growth will be gradual at first, but very rapid during the latter part of the planning period after the anticipated developments occur. For the most part, this growth will occur around the munici-



palities, especially Washington and, to a lesser extent, Belhaven. The county's agricultural population will continue to decline. Therefore, areas which remain strictly agricultural will probably decrease in population.

LABOR FORCE

There are three overlapping labor market areas in Beaufort County. These three areas are labor recruiting areas for Washington, Belhaven, and Aurora. Each area includes a 25 road-mile radius from the central town. This radius is applicable because industries generally recruit production-related workers up to 25 miles away. It should be noted that this limited area is not applicable to highly skilled technical and management personnel because they are recruited in much larger areas.

The Employment Security Commission of North Carolina has prepared estimates of the recruitable production-related workers in the three labor market areas mentioned above. Generally, these estimates of the recuritable and referable labor supply are made up of the following two groups.

I. <u>Persons Currently Seeking Work</u>:

(1) The unemployed
(2) Persons with less than full-time employment, i.e., part-time workers
(3) Individuals holding jobs which do not utilize their highest potential
(4) Certain other, such as school drop-outs, returnees from military service, etc.

II. <u>Potential Jobseekers</u>:

(1) Housewives who would join the labor force, if more suitable work or better job opportunities were available
(2) Workers who are now commuting to jobs in other areas but who prefer local employment
(3) Young people who expect to find jobs upon completion of their schooling
(4) Agricultural workers who are interested in industrial jobs

The estimates of recruitable workers in each area are shown in Table 26. These estimates are based on data which was made available in June, 1967. Each area is listed separately because some people are included in two or more overlapping areas.

TABLE 26. ESTIMATE OF RECRUITABLE WORKERS FOR INDUSTRIAL EXPANSION

Miles	Total	Type of Worker: Total Available Workers		Experienced Manufacturing Workers		All Other Experienced Workers		Inexperienced But Referable And Trainable	
		Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female	Male	Female
				Washington Area					
Total	2,225	1,095	1,130	250	340	340	330	505	460
0 to 15	790	360	430	105	145	105	125	150	160
15 to 20	530	270	260	50	70	80	70	140	120
20 to 25	905	465	440	95	125	155	135	215	180
				Belhaven Area					
Total	1,925	945	980	320	345	345	320	280	315
0 to 15	410	190	220	65	75	60	65	65	80
15 to 20	350	175	175	60	60	65	60	50	55
20 to 25	1,165	580	585	195	210	220	195	165	180
				Aurora Area					
Total	1,475	760	715	170	235	360	240	230	240
0 to 15	370	185	185	30	70	100	55	55	60
15 to 20	255	135	120	25	45	70	40	40	35
20 to 25	850	440	410	115	120	190	145	135	145

SOURCE: Employment Security Commission of North Carolina

From the information in Table 26, it would seem that Beaufort County's labor needs are well taken care of for the next few years. However, the figures in the table should not be taken at face value. Many people included in these labor market areas are also included in the labor

market areas for other towns. Therefore, many of the potential workers may be recruited by industries outside of Beaufort County. Some local industries are having trouble recruiting qualified labor at the present time.

During the next twenty years, the availability of qualified labor will depend largely upon the county's ability to provide education and training for the unskilled workers who desire to improve their skills. The agricultural population will continue to leave the farms and seek other employment nearby. In addition, approximately 260 high school graduates (135 male and 125 female) enter the labor force annually. If adequate vocational and technical educational facilities are provided in the county, there should be sufficient labor available to accommodate a moderate rate of growth. Obviously, if the county experiences a very rapid increase in job opportunities, many of the new workers will migrate to Beaufort County from other areas.

CHAPTER 5 - OTHER RESOURCES AND POTENTIALS

Although the population and labor force are significant elements in an area's development potential, they are not the only resources which aid in expanding economic growth. Many natural and manmade physical resources are necessary in order for a population to function effectively. The intent of this chapter is to examine these significant physical resources and the potential for economic growth in Beaufort County. Some resources which are not included in the study will be a part of the Land Potential Study.

EDUCATIONAL SYSTEM

The Beaufort County educational system can become a great asset to the county during the next few years. However, recent improvement efforts must be continued, especially efforts to consolidate schools and to establish a technical institute in the county. A great step forward was taken when the decision was made to consolidate five high schools in the northeastern section of the county into one larger unit which can employ enough teachers to teach a well rounded curriculum. The smaller schools in the county cannot employ enough qualified teachers to offer the variety of courses needed in a modern high school.

The most promising development in education in Beaufort County is the impending growth of the Beaufort County Indus-

trial Education Center into a technical institute. Although opened in 1964, the Beaufort County Industrial Education Center made very little progress until 1966. At that time, a new director was hired, the curriculum was expanded, and public interest was aroused to the extent that a determined effort was made to change the Industrial Education Center (presently a branch of the Pitt County Technical Institute) into a technical institute which would serve Beaufort County and a large surrounding area. Now, the county will definitely have a technical institute if a $500,000 county bond issue is approved by the citizens of Beaufort County.

If established, the Technical Institute will be the most effective and practical means whereby the average person in the county can upgrade his education and skills. Such an institute would enhance the county's economic potential by providing an increased supply of qualified job applicants in the years ahead.

REGIONAL TRANSPORTATION NETWORK

In order for any area to experience substantial economic growth, it must have a transportation system which is adequate for the rapid and economical movement of people and commodities, both within the area and to and from the area. To a limited extent, highway, railroad, water, and air transportation are available to and from Beaufort County.

HIGHWAY TRANSPORTATION

Highway transportation is provided east-west by U.S. Highway 264 and N.C. Highway 33, and north-south by U.S. Highway 17, N.C. 32, and N.C. 306. The two principal routes are U.S. Highway 264 and 17. By modern standards, these two-lane routes do not provide adequate highway connections with surrounding population centers. However, this situation may be remedied in the future.

Various groups in the area are beginning to promote the development of four-lane highways, both north-south and east-west. Two alternative proposals have been voiced concerning a north-south route. One proposal is the four-laning of U.S. Highway 17 through Eastern North Carolina and the other is a new Interstate route lying to the east of Edenton, Plymouth, Washington, and New Bern. Either route would serve a large portion of the Eastern coast of the United States. In the east-west direction, it has been proposed that either U.S. 264 or U.S. 64 be four-laned from the coastal area to Raleigh. The four-laning of 264 would be more beneficial to Beaufort Cuunty. However, either of these routes would provide easy access to markets in the Piedmont Crescent. It has been predicted that the Raleigh-Wake County Metropolitan Area will be the most rapidly growing metropolitan area in North Carolina during the next few years. Improvement of either of the routes mentioned above would enhance the economic environment of Beaufort County.

Within Beaufort County, highway connections are less than adequate. Since the Pamlico River, which splits the county into two parts, is bridged in only one place, it is extremely difficult for people in the eastern end of the county to travel from one side of the river to the other. To drive northeast from Aurora to Belhaven, a motorist must first drive 30 miles west to Washington. The lack of an adequate means of crossing the river has placed a severe handicap on the growth potential of Eastern Beaufort County.

In 1965, recognizing the need for a public transportation facility across the eastern part of the river, the North Carolina Highway Department began operating a ferry between a point east of Bayview on the northern bank of the river and a point near Lee Creek on the southern bank. However, the ferry, which has the capacity to carry 22 cars at one and one-half hour intervals, is entirely inadequate for the purpose of providing quick passage from one side of the river to the other. In addition, the ferry is very expensive to operate. These facts make it probable that a bridge replacing the ferry can be economically justified, and that, with sufficient public interest and support, a bridge will be built within the next few years. Such a bridge would have a great impact on the development of the eastern end of Beaufort County.

RAILROAD TRANSPORTATION

Beaufort County is served by both the Atlantic Coast Line Railroad and the Norfolk and Southern Railroad. A branch line of the Atlantic Coast Line serves Washington. The Norfolk Southern serves the entire county with its main line through Chocowinity, Washington, and Pinetown and with branch lines serving Pantego, Belhaven, and Aurora. Although no passenger service is available, railroad service in the county is an asset for future economic development.

AIR TRANSPORTATION

Beaufort County has no regularly scheduled commercial airline service. However, commercial airline service is available at New Bern, 35 miles south of Washington. Beaufort County is served by the Washington Municipal Airport at Washington which has two 5,000 foot long paved runways, one 4,000 foot long paved runway, and paved taxiways and apron. In addition, a 2,600 foot long grass airstrip is located at Belhaven. The Washington airport is well equipped to handle business and pleasure aircraft.

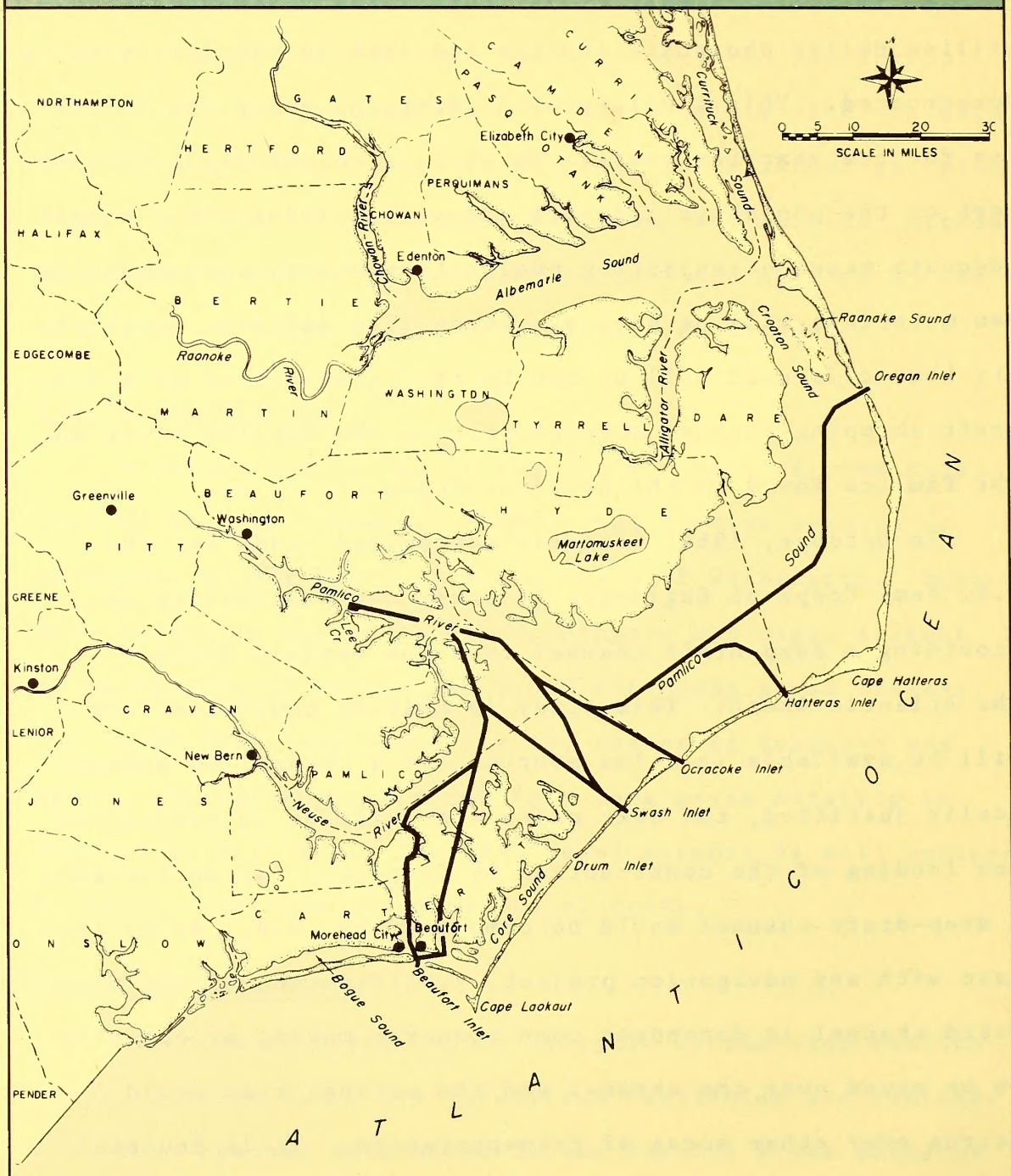
WATER TRANSPORTATION

Although Beaufort County is split by the wide Pamlico River, present water transportation facilities are limited. A 12-foot channel maintained in the Pamlico River connects the City of Washington with the Intracoastal Waterway which passes through the eastern end of the county. Bulk cargo

is moved to and from the county over this route. This route is utilized to move phosphate products from the facilities at Lee Creek to the port at Morehead City, where a multi-million dollar phosphate storage and loading complex is being constructed. This facility will serve the phosphate industry for the next few years. However, with extensive development of the phosphate industry and allied industries, a more adequate means of exporting phosphate products and importing raw materials will be needed. There is a definite possibility that this need will be met by the construction of a deep-draft shipping channel through part of the Pamlico River and the Pamlico Sound to the Atlantic Ocean.

In October, 1964, Congress authorized funds for the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers to study the feasibility of providing a deep-draft channel from the Pamlico River to the Atlantic Ocean. This study is nearing completion and will be available in a few months. If a channel is economically justified, the next major step will be authorization and funding of the construction by Congress. If authorized, a deep-draft channel would be completed by 1978. As is the case with any navigation project, justification of the proposed channel is dependent upon commerce moving or expected to be moved over the channel and the savings that would accrue over other modes of transportation. It is doubtful that the channel would be justified under present conditions with only one company processing phosphate rock for ship-

Proposed Routes For Deep-Draft Shipping Channel



SOURCE: U.S. ARMY CORPS OF ENGINEERS
WILMINGTON, N.C.

MAP 4

ment. However, it is probable that addition of another major mining and processing complex or developments by allied industries would add sufficient prospective commerce to justify a deep-draft channel from the vicinity of Lee Creek to the Atlantic Ocean via one of the routes shown on Map 4. If established, this channel will add to the economic potential of the entire northeastern section of North Carolina.

POTENTIAL OF PHOSPHATE INDUSTRY

The mining of phosphate deposits in Beaufort County could easily be one of the most significant economic developments to occur in Eastern North Carolina. Although the actual size and scope of the phosphate industry in Beaufort County remains unpredictable at the present time, several possibilities do exist.

MARKET

There will definitely be a market for phosphate rock mined in Beaufort County. The increasing world population and increasing demand for food create a rapidly increasing demand for fertilizer products; including phosphate, potash, and nitrogen. The North Carolina deposits are in a good location from which to serve the northern portion of the United States east of the Mississippi River. In addition, with a combination of barge and deep water shipping, these deposits may supply part of the Canada Wheat Belt through

the Great Lakes. It is also possible that these deposits will supply a large part of the European and African market.

Currently, approximately 16 million tons of phosphate rock are used for industrial chemicals. By 1980, it is predicted that industrial consumption of phosphate rock will be 24 million tons annually.[1] Therefore, production of phosphate rock for industrial use is a possibility for the Beaufort County phosphate industry.

MINING AND PROCESSING

It is expected that there will probably be at least four firms, and no more than six to eight firms, mining and processing phosphate rock in the area by 1975 or 1980. These firms are expected to produce a total of from twelve to 18 million tons of phosphate rock per year, with most of the rock being used for fertilizer. Part of the rock may be shipped to other areas for industrial use and there is a possibility that some industrial chemicals may eventually be produced in Beaufort County.

One factor which might inhibit the production of phosphate rock is the new water and air pollution control law which has been enacted by the North Carolina Legislature. However, it is anticipated that any restrictions imposed by

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[1] Texas Gulf Sulphur Company, Economic Benefits to the North Carolina Phosphate Industry of the Proposed Pamlico-Tar River Channel, 1965.

these controls can be met in a manner that will permit the continued mining of the Beaufort County phosphate deposits.

PRODUCTION OF ELEMENTAL PHOSPHORUS

In order for industrial phosphate chemicals to be produced in Beaufort County, it is necessary for elemental phosphorus to be produced. Some company will probably produce elemental phosphorus in the area. However, in order for elemental phosphorus to be produced there should be a relatively inexpensive source of electric power available.

INDUSTRIAL PHOSPHATE CHEMICALS

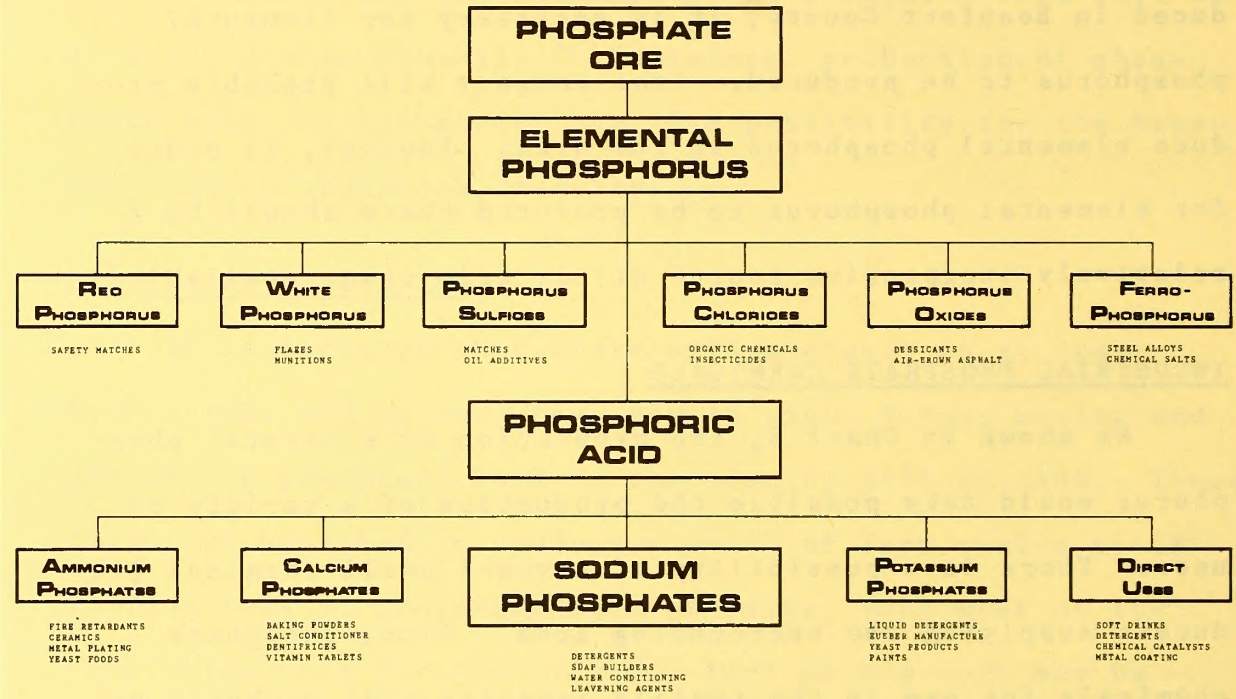
As shown in Chart 8, the production of elemental phosphorus would make possible the production of a variety of uses. There is a possibility of several small chemical producers supplying the surrounding area. Also, phosphate chemicals for use in the textile industry will probably be produced somewhere in North Carolina. However, any phosphate chemicals produced in large quantities in Beaufort County would probably be chemicals in which elemental phosphorus is a major ingredient from the standpoint of cost. Otherwise, the phosphorus will be shipped to a point near the other ingredients or nearer to the market for the finished product.

ECONOMIC VALUE

From the observations made above, it is obvious that the phosphate industry will be of great value in the Beau-

Chart 8

INDUSTRIAL PHOSPHATE CHEMICALS



SOURCE: JOHN A. MACON AND OTHERS
INDUSTRIAL PHOSPHATE CHEMICALS
RALEIGH, NORTH CAROLINA, 1964

fort County economy. An idea of the possible value of this industry might be gained by examining the relative effect that phosphate mining has made in the State of Florida. Phosphate production in dollar value, $95,590,000 at the mines, represents 50 percent of the total of all combined minerals produced.[1] The eleven companies and sixteen plants

[1] Florida Chamber of Commerce, Directory of Florida Industries, Jacksonville, Florida, 1963.

mining and producing phosphates in Florida employ approximately 5,000 persons.[1] This represents a large contribution to the economy of the entire state.

AVAILABILITY OF INDUSTRIAL OR COMMERCIAL BUILDINGS AND SITES

In order for an area to attract new industry, an important factor is the availability of suitable buildings or sites. In an area such as Beaufort County where rapid growth is anticipated, it is desirable for the community to be aware of available buildings which can be used for industrial or commercial purposes. In addition, the good industrial sites should be located and made available for industrial use.

BUILDINGS

There are several vacant buildings in the county which can be used for commercial storage or light industrial purposes. The majority of these vacant structures are in Belhaven. Some of these buildings, most of which have utility connections, and are structurally sound, may be used for light manufacturing. However, the majority are more suitable for commercial or storage use. For specific information

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[1] Florida Chamber of Commerce, Directory of Florida Industries, Jacksonville, Florida, 1963.

about a particular building, a prospective user should contact the Chamber of Commerce in Washington or Belhaven.

One building located in Washington has outstanding potential for use by a small manufacturing industry. Although presently used for storage, it can be made available for a suitable user. The 20,000 square foot building has utility connections and can be served by both truck and railroad transportation.

INDUSTRIAL SITES

A prerequisite for a parcel of land to be an industrial site is that the land actually be available at a reasonable price, for industrial development. No matter what its other attributes, a piece of property which is unavailable or available only at a price several times higher than the appraised value cannot be designated as an industrial site. Currently, very little is known about the availability of potential industrial sites in Beaufort County. However, a study which is currently being conducted should remedy this situation.

The Washington Chamber of Commerce, operating on a county wide basis, is beginning a detailed study of industrial sites in Beaufort County. Area by area, the county is being scanned for property which qualifies as industrial land from the standpoint of location, utility connections, other physical features, and zoning classifications. The final step before designating any site as an industrial site

is obtaining positive verification that the site is available.

When the Chamber of Commerce study is completed it will be presented, by leaders of the various communities, to the Commerce and Industry Division of the North Carolina Department of Conservation and Development. In this way, knowledge of the industrial sites in the county will become more widespread. Successful completion of the study should help Beaufort County prepare for anticipated growth.

FINANCING

The potential for development of many types of economic activities is limited by the availability of financing. For new or expanding economic activities in Beaufort County, financing may be obtained from two types of sources--private lending organizations and government agencies.

PRIVATE LENDING ORGANIZATIONS

Naturally, the majority of financing available in Beaufort County is from private lending organizations. The major private lending organizations in the county are Wachovia Bank and Trust Company, Bank of Washington, Beaufort County Savings and Loan Association, and Home Savings and Loan Association. Through these organizations, financing for a wide range of activities can be obtained. Any attractive investment could obtain additional backing from else-

where in North Carolina. However, it is probable that the local organizations will be able to provide any forseeable financing needed in the county. For example, the current debt ceiling at Wachovia is $8,000,000 to any one firm.

GOVERNMENT AGENCIES

Various federal agencies provide financial assistance for publicly sponsored projects. However, the major sources of governmental financing for private businesses or individuals are the Small Business Administration and the Farmers Home Administration. Long-term loans at low interest rates are provided by each of these two agencies. However, the loans are limited generally to small businesses and family farms. The major loan programs of each agency are listed below.[1]

1. The Small Business Administration provides the following general types of loans:

   A. Special low-interest loans which are available to small businesses that have been physically displaced by federally aided construction programs.

   B. Financial assistance, licensing, and regulation of privately organized and operated Small Business Investment Companies in order to make long-term capital available to small business.

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[1] Office of Economic Opportunity, Catalog of Federal Programs for Individual and Community Improvement, (Washington, 1965).

C. Loans and management assistance to small businesses in communities where Small Business Development Centers are in operation. The maximum amount of these loans is $29,000 with maximum maturity of 15 years.

D. Loans to state and local development companies to enable them to provide long-term loans and equity capital to small businesses located in their areas. A local development company can borrow up to $350,000 to assist any identifiable small business concern for up to 25 years.

2. The Farmers Home Administration provides the following general types of loans:

A. Farm ownership loans and technical management assistance to farmers and ranchers who are, or will become, operators of not larger than family farms. Loans are only made when adequate credit cannot be obtained from other sources at reasonable terms.

B. Loans for recreation enterprises to farmers and ranchers who personally manage and operate not larger than family farms, so that they may supplement their income.

C. Thirty year, 4 1/8 percent loans to cooperatives that furnish essential processing, purchasing, or marketing services, supplies, or facilities to low-income rural families.

D. Direct loans to low-income farm and nonfarm families who need capital to improve their earnings but are unable to obtain credit elsewhere at reasonable rates and terms. The total amount loaned to any one family may not exceed $2,500, and the maximum loan term is 15 years at 4 1/8 percent interest per annum on the unpaid balance. Loans will be accompanied by technical and management assistance.

E. Operating loans and technical management assistance to operators of not larger than family farms to assist them in making adjustments and improvements in their farm and home operations.

F. Farm operating and ownership loans used to buy or develop land for forestry purposes bear a special low interest rate of only three percent, and repayments may be deferred for periods up to 15 years.

The programs listed above include the major federal loans available of direct significance for expansion of economic activities. More detailed information concerning any of these programs may be obtained by contacting the Small Business Administration, Washington, D. C. 20416, or the Farmers Home Administration, U.S. Department of Agriculture, Washington, D. C. 20250. Information and assistance may also be obtained from the Small Business Administration field offices or the local Farmers Home Administration Office.

MARKET POTENTIALS

Among the many factors related to economic growth is an area's accessibility to markets for various products produced in the area. In addition, local interests should continually strive to discover additional products which can be produced locally and sold in available markets. Both market accessibility and the potential of relatively new products are discussed in this section.

ACCESSIBILITY TO MARKETS

Beaufort County is in an advantageous location in relation to a large portion of the population of the United States. Major markets, particularly markets for consumer goods, generally coincide with major concentrations of people. Within 500 miles of the county are such major population centers as New York, Cleveland, Philadelphia, Baltimore, Cincinnati, Atlanta, and Jacksonville, Florida. Within approximately 250 miles are the major portions of the populations of Virginia, Maryland, Delaware, North Carolina, and South Carolina. Products from Beaufort County reach these markets in a very short time by truck or rail.

POTENTIAL FOR PRODUCT DEVELOPMENT

Obviously, a nearby market exists for almost any conceivable product that can be produced in Beaufort County. Particularly, there is an extremely large market for consumer products. Of the new products which might be produced in Beaufort County, the majority are related to the phosphate industry and, as such, are discussed in the section on the potential of the phosphate industry. However, many agricultural products, which are either produced on a small scale or not produced at all in Beaufort County, can be produced for the large consumer markets in the Eastern United States. The most significant among these products are commercial vegetables and flowers, corn, and livestock and livestock products.

Commercial Vegetables and Flowers

The black organic soil in the eastern end of Beaufort County is well suited to growing vegetable crops and flowers. In addition, the large tracts of flat land make possible mechanized harvesting of vegetables. Vegetables and flowers are both being produced in the area to a limited extent. However, before these crops are produced on a large scale, extensive research should be done in order to discover the best varieties to produce and to determine the best marketing methods.

Corn

Corn is already a major crop in Beaufort County. However, corn production is expected to increase in the years ahead. This is due to several factors, not the least of which is the fact that the land in the county is well suited to growing corn. Also, the local market for corn is expected to expand due to increased production of livestock and livestock products.

Livestock and Livestock Products

Due to the increasing urban population in the Eastern United States, the market for livestock and livestock products is expected to expand significantly during the coming years. Beaufort County is in a good position to supply a portion of this market. Since the county is a major corn and soybean producing area, a large amount of livestock feed can be produced locally. Also, as pointed out earlier, the county's

geographical location is such that the major consumer markets can be reached easily and rapidly by rail or truck.

The area's greatest livestock product potential is in the dairy industry, poultry, swine, and steer finishing. The potential of the dairy industry is revealed, in part, by the tremendous increase in the value of dairy products sold annually from 1959 to 1964. In this five year period annual sales of Beaufort County dairy products increased from $67,000 to $333,000, an increase of almost 400 percent.[1] Poultry has great potential because poultry operations are very efficient consumers of grain and land. Swine producing and steer finishing operations are also fairly efficient users of grain. With expanding markets available, all of these products should contribute to the increasing value of agricultural products produced in Beaufort County.

TOURIST INDUSTRY

Beaufort County has the potential to be a major tourist and recreation center. However, at the present time this potential has not been developed. The travel industry is a billion dollar business in North Carolina and Beaufort County can share in this business to a much greater extent than it presently does.

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[1] United States Census of Agriculture, 1964, U.S. Bureau of the Census.

The county has two great assets which should draw a large number of vacationers and travelers each year. These are the broad Pamlico River and the county's rich historical background. However, very little has been done to develop any part of the river front as a public recreation area and, although the county has a historical organization, very little has been done to capitalize on the county's historical background.

Beaufort County is located in a position where a tremendous number of vacationing travelers either pass through or near it. With proper development of the county's tourist potential, many people traveling south from the northern population centers and people traveling east to the Outer Banks can be induced to spend part or all of their vacation time in Beaufort County. The county's major needs in this respect, recreational development and historical development, are discussed in Part 3 entitled Area Goals and Programs.

Part 3

AREA GOALS AND PROGRAMS

INTRODUCTION

The first part of this study is an analysis of population and economic trends in Beaufort County and the second part is an analysis of the county's resources and its potential for economic growth. Part 3 is a statement of specific goals and programs leading to the attainment of the general goal of improving the local economy. The goals and programs listed here probably are not the only ones which should be considered for the county. However, they are important and implementation of the programs listed should contribute significantly to the economic growth of Beaufort County.

Very few projects have been initiated in the county in the past few years for the specific purpose of improving the county's economy. However, two such projects have proved of value to the county. These projects are the establishment of the Industrial Education Center as a branch of the Pitt Technical Institute and the industrial development efforts of the Washington Chamber of Commerce. Although limited in staff and facilities, the Industrial Education Center has helped to improve the quality of the local labor force. Much of the recent industrial development can be linked either directly or indirectly to the efforts of the Chamber of Commerce.

CHAPTER 6 - GOALS AND PROGRAMS

Several general goals, such as higher incomes and better living conditions, could be stated for Beaufort County. However, discussing such goals in this study would be of no value because they represent a widespread desire for a better way of life and do not identify any specific action which can be taken. If the specific goals mentioned in this chapter are attained, average income and living standards will be improved automatically. The goals and programs are discussed below.

TRANSPORTATION

GOAL

A major need in Beaufort County is the need for an improved transportation system, both within the county and from the county to other areas. Therefore, improvement of the transportation network should be one of the county's developmental goals.

PROGRAMS

Three separate projects should be pushed in conjunction with the goal of improving the transportation system. Generally, the funds for these projects would be from state and federal sources. However, local people must take the initiative and express a strong demand for the improvements.

Regional Highways

There is a great need in Eastern North Carolina for improved east-west and north-south highways. For Beaufort County, the most desirable improvement would be the four-laning of U.S. Highway 264 from Chocowinity to the four-lane portion of U.S. 64 between Zebulon and Raleigh. This four-lane route would connect Beaufort County with the Piedmont area and, by connecting with Interstate 95 near Wilson, the route would provide improved north-south traffic flow. Government, business, and civic leaders in Beaufort County should make an organized and determined effort to bring about the four-laning of this route.

Bridge Across Pamlico River

The second project which the people of Beaufort County should attempt to have done is the construction of a bridge across the Pamlico River near Aurora and Bayview. The need for and feasibility of constructing the bridge are discussed in Part 2 of this study. As is stated in Part 2, the bridge could probably be paid for by funds currently being spent to operate the ferry which it would replace.

Deep-draft Shipping Channel

The final proposed project relating to transportation is the construction of a deep-draft shipping channel from the Pamlico River to the Atlantic Ocean. The U.S. Army Corps of Engineers will probably find that the channel is economically justified. However, economic justification is not assurance that the channel will be constructed. Funding by Congress for the construction will depend on the political climate and expressed interest in obtaining the channel. Therefore, all interested parties in Beaufort County should push for construction of the channel.

EDUCATION AND SKILL DEVELOPMENT

GOAL

A major problem in Beaufort County is the lack of an adequate supply of qualified labor. Also, to a great extent

low incomes in the county can be attributed to low levels of education and skill development. Therefore, one of the county's goals should be to improve the level of education and skills in the local labor force.

PROGRAM

The program for improving the level of education and skills in the area is establishment of a technical institute in Beaufort County. The technical institute is well on the way toward being established. However, a major hurdle which must be cleared is the approval by the voters of a bond issue to finance the construction of facilities for the institute. Planning board members, civic clubs, and interested citizens in the county should actively campaign for passage of the bond referendum. A technical institute will be a valuable asset to Beaufort County.

DEVELOPMENT OF AGRICULTURAL POTENTIAL

GOAL

Beaufort County farms are becoming larger and more specialized and farm income is increasing. Several crops in the county have the potential for increased production. One of the county's goals should be to develop the agricultural potential of the county in order to take advantage of the expanding market for agricultural products.

PROGRAM

Of the crops with potential for increased production, extensive research should be done on the production and marketing techniques of at least two. These two are commercial flowers and vegetable crops. This research can be conducted most efficiently by an Agricultural Experiment Station which can be established in the northeastern part of Beaufort County. This station would be a part of the Agricultural Extension Service of North Carolina State University. Once established, the station could do research on the production and marketing of several crops produced in Eastern North Carolina.

DEVELOPMENT OF TOURIST POTENTIAL

GOAL

Beaufort County has many natural resources and potentials for recreation and tourism - good hunting and fishing, a rich historical background, and a river which can accommodate almost any type of water recreation. Many local people are proud of their county's advantages in this respect. However, the county falls far short of its potential as an attractive recreation area and as an attractive place for new families to settle. A goal for the county should be the development of its recreational potential and historical features. In addition to inducing greater tourist trade,

attainment of this goal would make it easier for local industries to attract new employees from other areas.

PROGRAM

The program for development of tourist potential is in three parts as outlined below.

County Park

One of the county's major needs in respect to tourist development is a public recreation area. Beaufort County could either purchase or obtain as a gift 100 to 200 acres of land bordering on the Pamlico River. This park should contain a public beach, boat launching and docking facilities, a camping area and facilities, picnic facilities, and hiking trails.

Public Golf Course

An eighteen-hole golf course open to the public should be constructed in Beaufort County. Many people traveling Highway 17 would stop and spend a few days in Beaufort County if a good eighteen-hole course were available. Under present conditions, residents of the county who do not belong to the Washington Country Club, which has a nine-hole golf course, must travel to a town in another county in order to play golf.

Restoration of Historic Bath

As the oldest incorporated town in North Carolina, Bath has a rich historical heritage. However, the casual visitor to the town hardly notices that it is different from any other small town in Eastern North Carolina. Although some old buildings have been preserved, no attempt has been made to restore the town to its colonial appearance.

Restoration of the town would provide an excellent historical attraction for the travelling public. A restoration commission should be organized and charged with the responsibility of planning for the restoration of the town and soliciting funds from government and private sources. The National Trust for Historic Preservation and many private industries and foundations might be interested in financially supporting the restoration.